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MAD



UNITED STATES #493 SEPTEMBER 2008 \$4.99 CHEAP!



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Wii



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CROSS-GENE
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SPIKE
GET MORE ACTION

MAD

SEPTEMBER 2008

NUMBER 493

DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS AND TOMATOES DEPARTMENT
Random Samplings of Reader Mail.....2

RANDOM ACTS OF MINDLESS DEPARTMENT
The Fundalini Pages.....8

ROOKIE MONSTER DEPARTMENT
The 46-Year-Old Political Virgin
(A MAD Political Poster).....11

AN INDY FILM DEPARTMENT
"Inadiaper Jones and the Kingdom of the
Creative Dry Spell" (A MAD Movie Satire).....12

SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPARTMENT
A MAD Look at Summer Fun.....18

CRACK IS AACK! DEPARTMENT
Amy by Amy Winehouse.....22

IN BLOG WE TRUST DEPARTMENT
Planet Tad!!!!!!24

JOKE AND DAGGER DEPARTMENT
Spy Vs. Spy26

SLOPPY DISC DEPARTMENT
Now That's What I Call Monotony! (A MAD Ad Parody)28

ANGSTER'S PARADISE DEPARTMENT
Monroe and...The New Phone.....29

HITTING THE SNAIL ON THE HEAD DEPARTMENT
What if Slugs Fought in Mixed Martial Arts Competitions?30

THE HIGH CORPSE OF LIVING DEPARTMENT
When the Recession Hits Funeral Homes.....34

LAUREN ORDER DEPARTMENT
MAD Heads for *The Hills* Outtakes.....36

TRIP TEASE DEPARTMENT
The MAD World of Travel.....38

LEAVE IT TO GEEZER DEPARTMENT
No Country For Old Man (A MAD Political Poster).....41

WHOSE LION IS IT ANYWAY? DEPARTMENT
"The Chronic-ills of Yawnia — Prince Thespian"
(Another MAD Movie Satire).....44

OBSERVATION DRECK DEPARTMENT
What the Heck is the Difference?.....48

MARGINAL THINKING DEPARTMENT
"Drawn Out Dramas"
by Sergio Aragonés.....**Various Places
Around the Magazine**

COVER ARTIST: MARK FREDRICKSON

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29



22



It's Funny
how the dumbest
son and shrillest daughter-
in-law never fail to produce
the smartest, sweetest
grandchildren on
the planet!



26



38



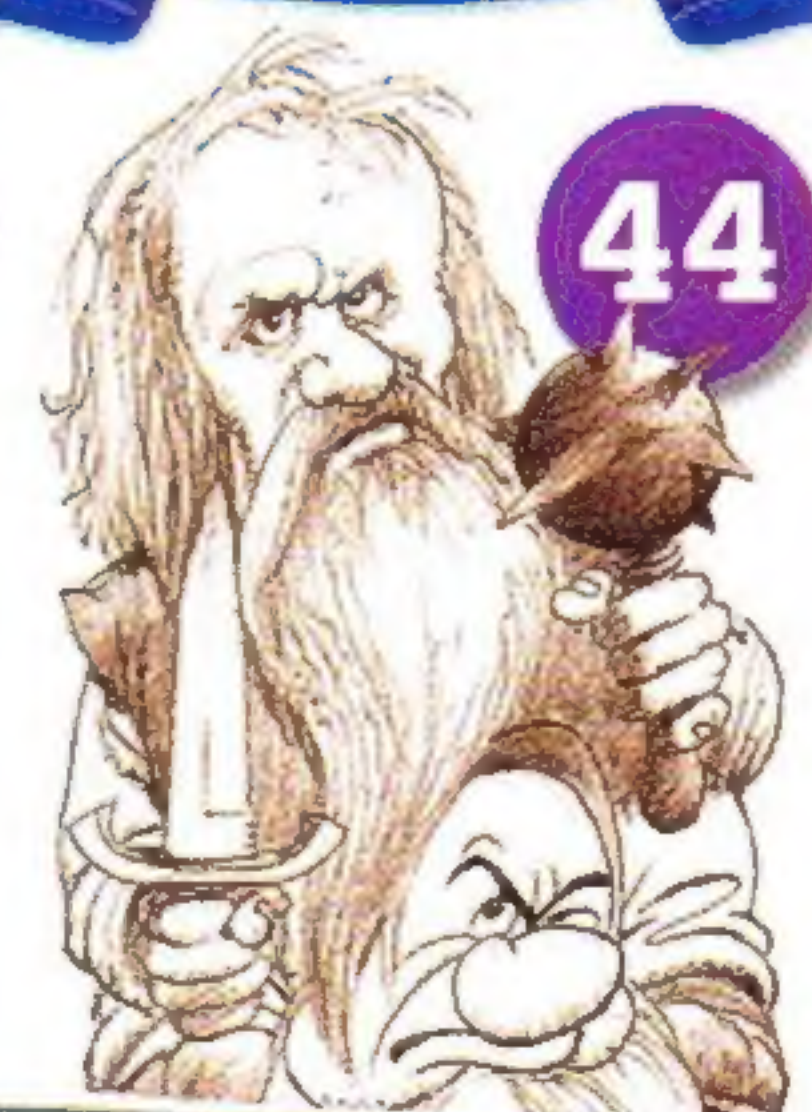
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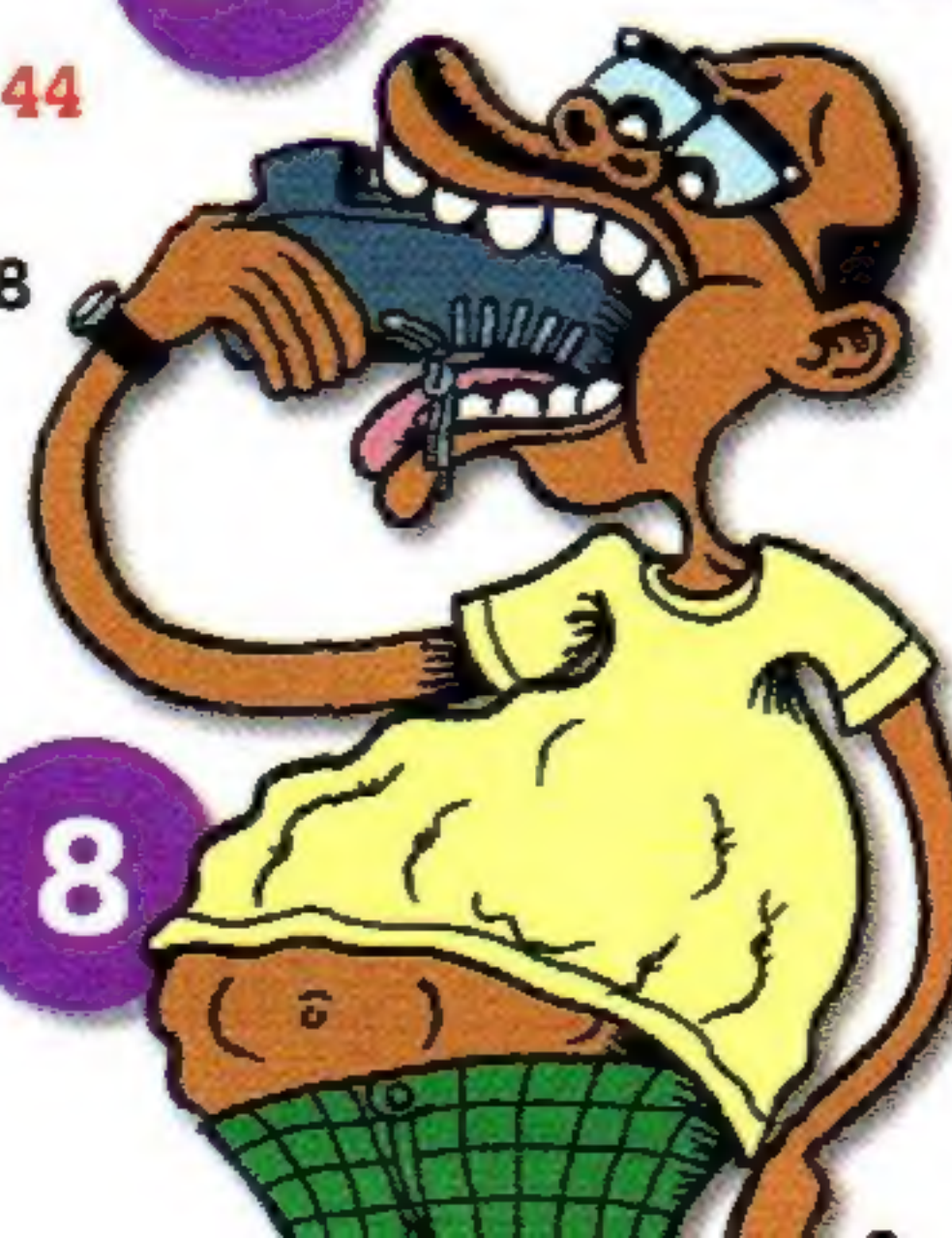
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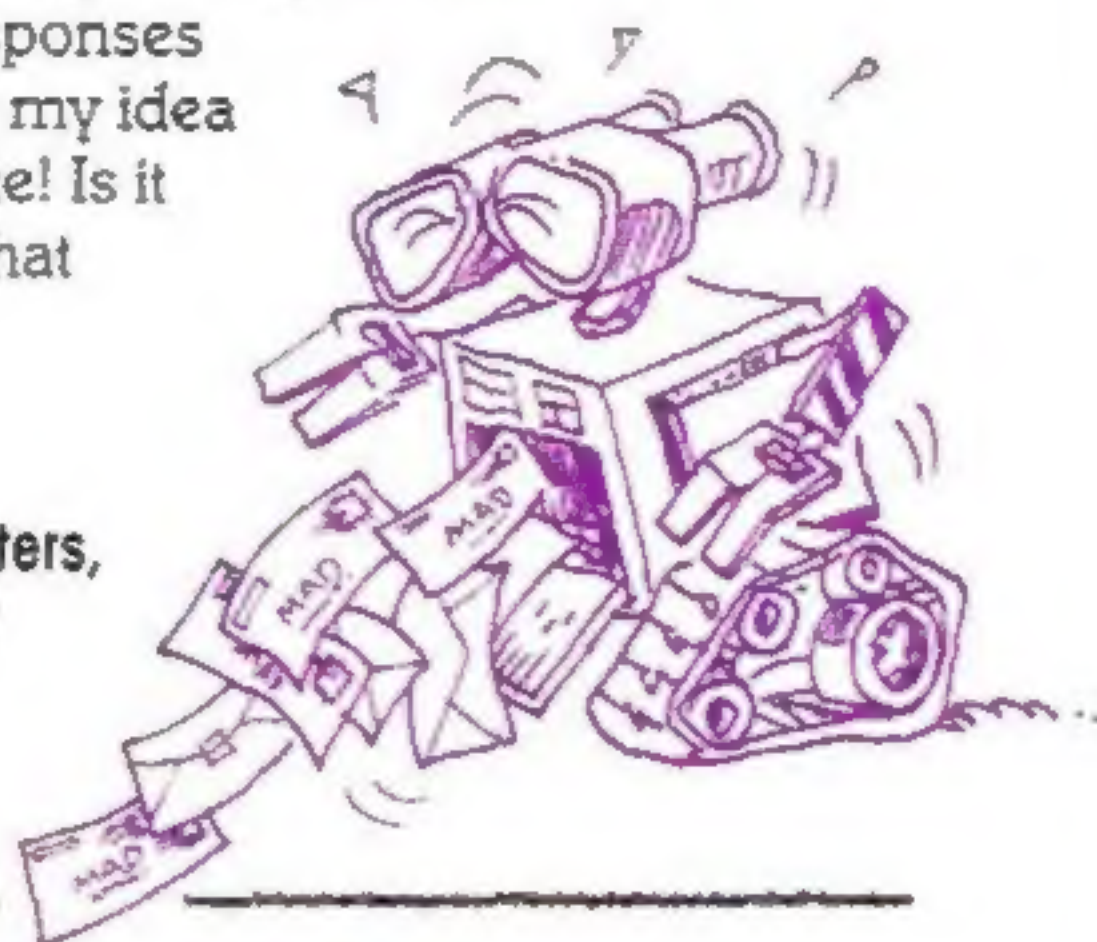


WRITE OR WRONG

There was just a really big storm two days ago and it knocked out the power. As a result of this, school was closed for the day. Luckily, I had just received my new issue of MAD and while all of my friends were out having fun, I was inside my house reading MAD with a flashlight. The part I was reading was the Letters to the Editor (my favorite part). After finishing this section, a very strange thought came to my mind. All of the letters and responses seemed so perfectly thought-out, so my idea was that my favorite section was fake! Is it true, or am I just another schmuck that reads your magazine?

Josh Drubin, Derwood, MD

Drubin Donuts — If we made up the letters, don't you think we'd do better than your moronic scribblings? —Ed.



WEDDED DISS

Izzy Grinspan and Andy Selsberg sent in this photo of their MAD-tainted wedding. What's crazy about this picture is that the issue of MAD isn't the most embarrassing part — that honor goes to the "just rolled out of bed" look of Andy! What happened, buddy? You couldn't spruce yourself up for your special day? Was the barber college closed? Did you come straight from the shelter? We can't see by the picture, but we're betting even money that you're sporting a pair of cut-offs! In other news, we noticed that you're holding the Narnia issue. If you like tales of outlandish fantasy, here's another one you'll also enjoy — you're going to have a long and happy marriage!



ALFRED LOOK-A-LIKE

Take a look at this joker (Jackson Guy). Can you believe that this guy goes to my church? I thought that anyone who looked like ol' Alfred would be banned from anything with any kind of religious affiliation. I thought I would take a picture of him and send it in to see if I could get a one-year subscription, even if it might ruin his future love life a bit.

Josh Kimberlin, Englewood, TN

Kimbaland — Good score getting this Alfred Look-A-Like snap. But there's something we're dying to find out — how could a loving and benevolent God allow one of his creations to go through life looking like Alfred? This is one that will stump Biblical scholars for years to come! Congrats on your one-year subscription, though! —Ed.



JACKSON GUY,
ANOTHER
UNFORTUNATE
LOOK-A-LIKE

THE BIG TEACHER'S PET PART DEUX

Recently, in MAD #491, I wrote you a letter saying how Mr. Faris loves MAD magazines and that I brought them to school for him to read (since he was my history teacher). Well, once I showed him that I got his name in the magazine, he laughed his head off. At the end of my school year, he gave me some old MAD magazines. They were MAD Special #24, MAD from Winter, Summer and Fall of 1982 and MAD's Sergio Aragones on Parade #1 from 1979. 5 issues! Thanks, guys!

Matthew Zarr, Fountain Valley, CA

P.S. If you're reading this, Mr. Faris, I want you to know you're the coolest teacher ever.

When You Wish Upon A Zarr — Don't give Mr. Faris the "Teacher of the Year" award just yet. We're betting those issues have been sitting on his recycling pile for the last 30 years and you're just saving him a trip to the dump! You'll know for sure if, next year, he brings you in a bunch of empty Snapple bottles! —Ed.



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HOLY CRAP!

I recently preached a sermon entitled, "What, Me Worry," in which I fondly recalled my youth and MAD magazine. It's probably been 45 years since I read it on a regular basis. As a result, one of my parishioners bought me the current issue. I enjoyed reading it very much and realized how important MAD had been to the development of my sense of humor. I'll be looking in on it on a more regular basis once again. Keep up the good work.

Rev. John R. Haas, Saskatchewan, Canada

Who's the Haas? — You gave a sermon entitled "What, Me Worry?" After that blasphemous chestnut, we're looking forward to your next sermon: "I'm Really Sorry, Please Accept My Resignation!" On the upside, your firing will give you plenty of time to "look in" on MAD in the future. —Ed.

STRANGE BET-FELLOWS

I bet my friend fifteen dollars that if you printed this letter you would begin your response with "Simon and Garfunkle —". So please, print this letter so I can settle this bet!

Abigail Garfinkle, Austin, TX

Finkle Finkle Little Star — We're happy to settle the bet. You lose! —Ed.

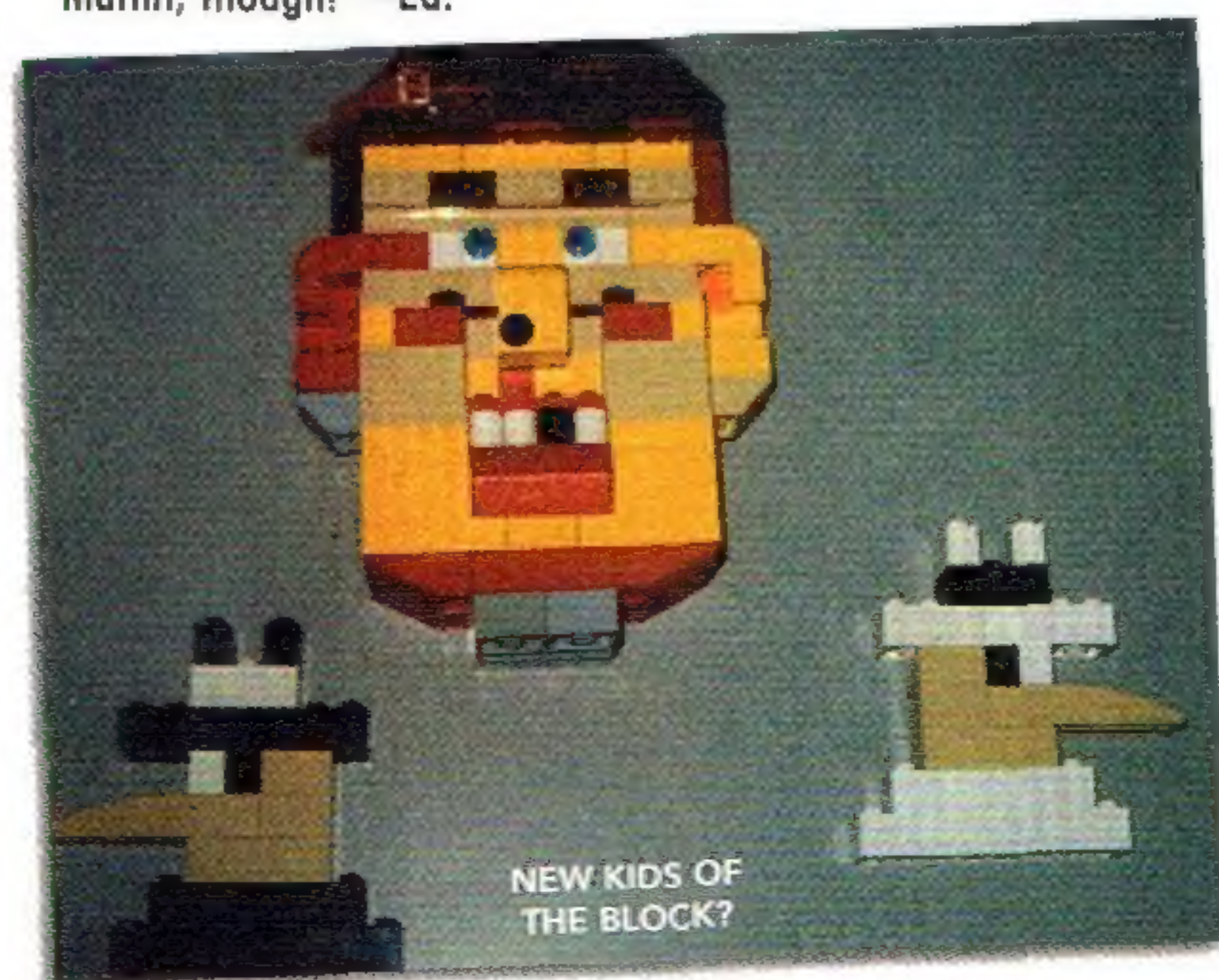


THE BIG EASEL

Although I have seen many interesting artistic Alfreds in The Big Easel, I have never seen a Lego Alfred. Well, luckily I have tons of Legos which helped me produce a Lego Alfred E. Neuman along with Lego Spy Vs. Spy creations. It may not be produce material but at least it is good enough for your magazine!

Daniel Mardirosian, Denver, CO

Life of the Mardi — This may be our favorite "Big Easel" entry of all time — just because in only a few minutes, it can be taken completely apart! No fuss, no muss and (most importantly) no record that your sculpture ever existed! We did like that your Alfred looked like it was created by Don Martin, though! —Ed.

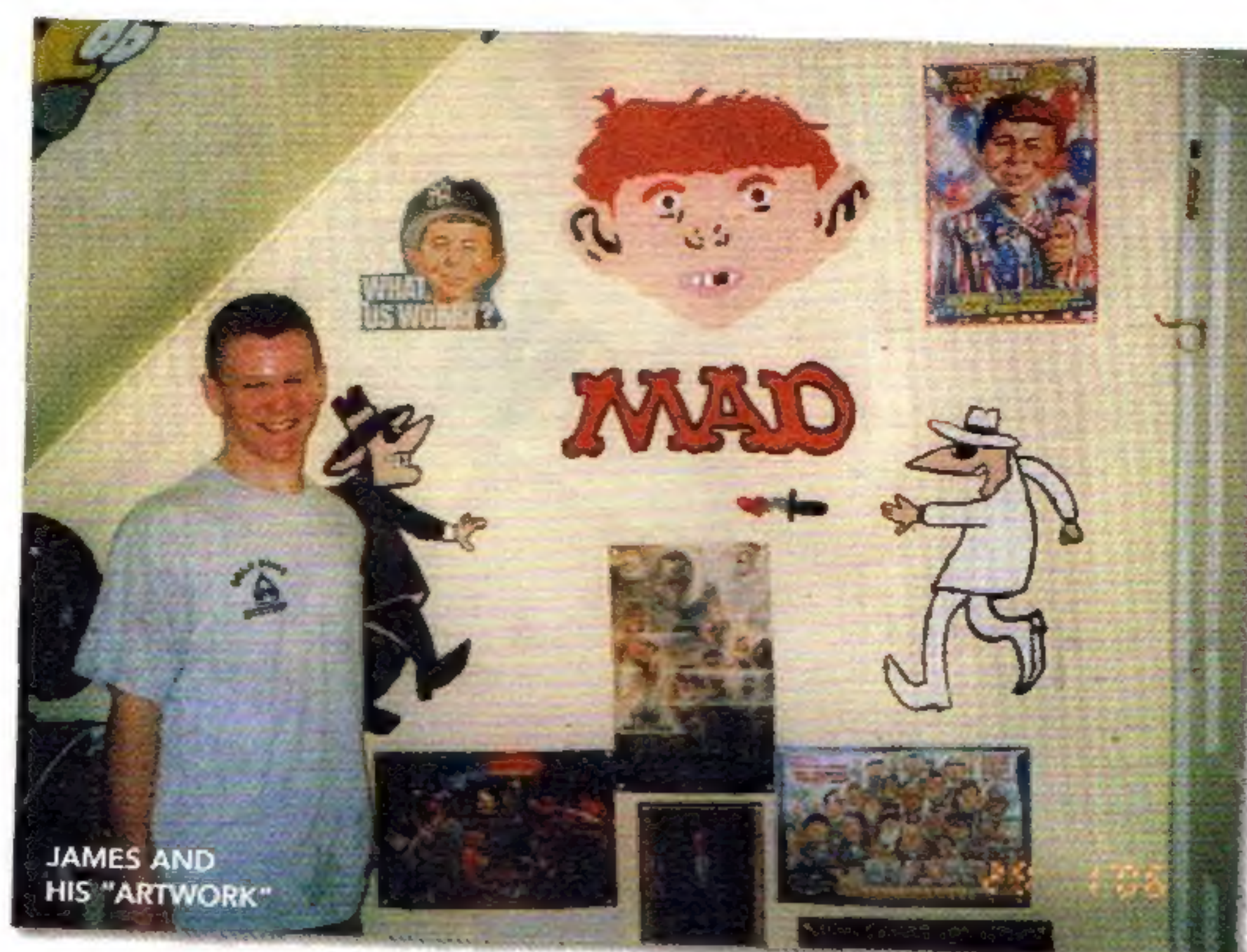


MAD FAN OF THE MONTH

My Mom told me to paint my room...so I did.

James Nolan, Windsor, VT

Nolan For Dollars — What you failed to mention is that the paint job was requested in order to cover up the Hello Kitty mural! Enjoy your fresh nightmares! —Ed.



PICTURE IMPERFECT

First off, thank you for creating countless issues full of hilarity. So, everyday instead of going to school at the normal time (1st period), I go early (0 period). Therefore I get out one period early (5th period instead of 6th). When I leave school every day (along with everyone else who leaves early) I have to show my school I.D. to security in order to prove that I get to leave. However, due to a bad I.D. picture, I printed out a picture of Alfred E. Neuman and placed it over my original picture. For the first couple of weeks when I showed security my I.D., I moved the picture of Alfred out of the way. Then one day I thought I'd test out my "Alfred I.D." on my hypocritical, over-powered school security, and to my great pleasure they didn't even say anything but the word "Go"! I continued to do this and to this day they haven't said anything to me. Is this a sign of Alfred's undiscovered power, or does my school security consist of a bunch of high school dropouts who can't tell the difference between me and the dorky-looking Alfred E. Neuman?

Vinnie Klement, La Mirada, CA

Vinnie Mouse — Please don't make us choose! We've got a hunch that it's probably both of those factors at work: your school security guards are idiots AND you're a big dork. Just curious, if you show up before 0 period, does that make it -1st period? —Ed.



WHAT, MEOW WORRY?

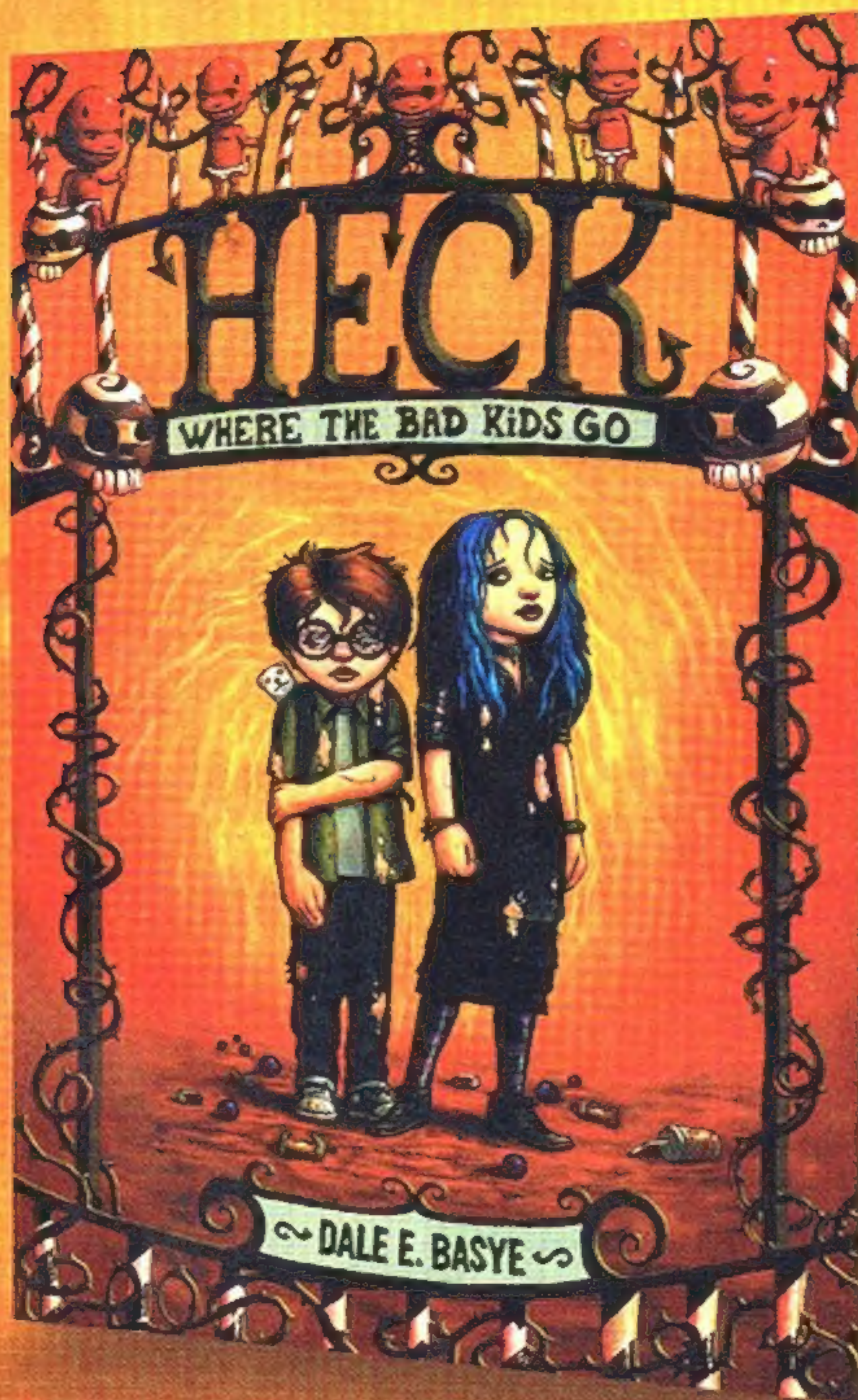
It would be very cool if you had a whole issue dedicated to cats. I mean, I know a lot of kids that buy books, magazines and coloring books, etc. just because there's a cute, cuddly, fluffy kitten on the cover. Plus, it's about to be my cat Peppers' birthday and I wanted to surprise him by putting his most famous picture in your infamous magazine!

Yahawa Ashaqua, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Ashaqua Teen Hunger Force — When we did our all-monkey issue (MAD #488), we considered a number of other animals as the focal point, including roosters, South African tree frogs and your cat Peppers! In the end, we just didn't think there was enough material to put Peppers in the spotlight. We only came up with one article idea that Peppers could have written — "A MAD Look at Secretly Hating Your Moronic Owner, Yahawa Ashaqua"! Better luck next year, Peppers — providing you're not on your ninth life already! —Ed.

HECK

WHERE THE BAD KIDS GO.



Welcome to Heck,
where the souls of the darned toil
for all eternity, or until they turn 18,
whichever comes first. . .

Illustrations © 2008 by Bob Doh

NIFTY FIFTY CELEBRITY SNAPS™

Going to Washington D.C. for the ACLU "Stand Up for Freedom" conference was cool. Getting to see Supreme Court Justices, Arianna Huffington and other important political figures was cooler. But coolest of all was successfully cornering Kal "Kumar" Penn for a photo — he was there to speak on a panel and was only mildly shocked to find out he is on the MAD Nifty Fifty™ list. Since I totally abandoned all semblance of professional reserve to get this picture, can I count on a three-year subscription to MAD?

Amy Miller, Lincoln, NE

It's Miller Time — You WOULD have gotten a three-year subscription, if you had a picture of Kal actually holding the issue! Since you're holding it, you'll have to settle for a one-year sub. What were you smoking?!? —Ed.



MIND THE GENERATION GAP

I am 12 years old and I have been reading MAD for almost a year. I've never subscribed to MAD. I just buy it every month. It was introduced to me first while I was in a local CVS with my mom. I saw an issue and I asked my mom what it was, she then explained to me and I became interested. I then asked her to buy me an issue. While I was reading it, my grandfather came to visit. As he walked by, he recognized it as a MAD magazine. It turns out, he read MAD when he was about my age! We then talked about MAD for hours until he had to go home. Thank you MAD for allowing families to have something to laugh about!

Miles Robicheaux, New Iberia, LA

The Robicheaux Must Go On — Usually this is where we make a snarky comment, but your letter warmed the cockles of our heart! Do you have any idea how cold our cockles normally are? They're freezing! Thank you for your sweet little missive — we're sorry to hear about the mental illness that obviously runs in your family! —Ed.

READER ALERT

Those lucky enough to have their missives printed in this month's Letters Page will receive *The Big Bang Theory: The Complete First Season* on DVD courtesy of our friends at Warner Home Video. To those that didn't make it, don't get your particles in a twist, it's on sale September 2nd!

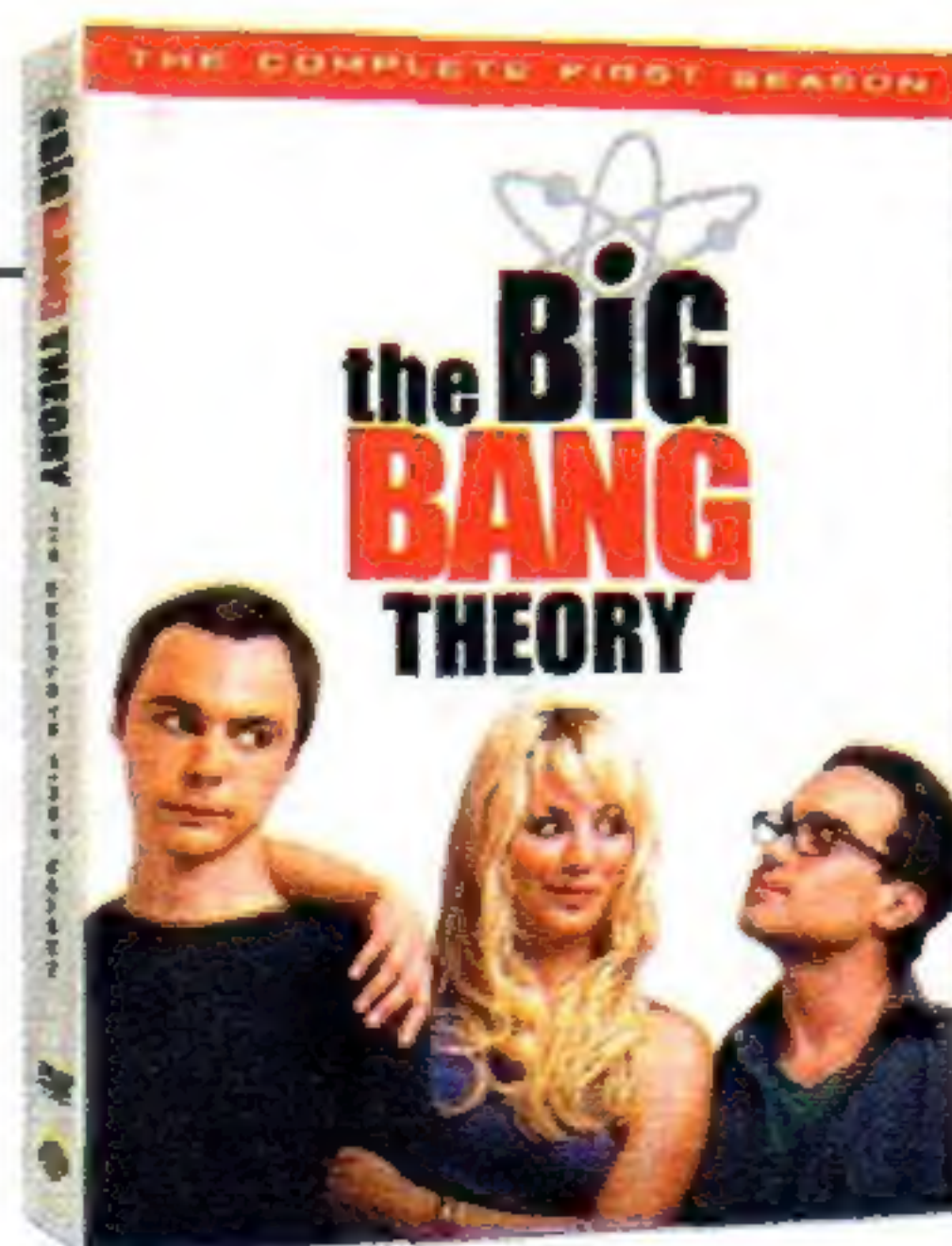


SOUVENIR-SIGHTED

Last week I was returning home from a trip when I realized I didn't have a gift for my husband. So, I stopped into a book store and there on the magazine rack, front and center was MAD magazine! It was like a prophecy! The perfect gift for my husband! Also, I thought it would give him something more interesting to do than watching TV. Actually the truth is...I bought him MAD because I wanted to read it. Since it has been probably 20-30 years since I read MAD, I was curious to see if it was as stupid now as it was back then. Hey, it's even more stupid!

Victoria Salvati, Houston, TX

Trader Vic — Wow! You can't believe MAD's gotten even stupider in the last three decades? We get the feeling your husband's gonna be thinking the same thing about you on your 30th anniversary! —Ed.



COMING UP IN MAD #494,
ON SALE SEPTEMBER 16!

THE 50 WORST
THINGS ABOUT THE
INTERNET!

COMING UP IN MAD CLASSICS
#23: ON SALE SEPTEMBER 16!

REALITY TV,
ELECTIONS
AND BASEBALL!

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Sue Pohja vp • book trade sales

Steve Rotterdam senior vp • sales & marketing

Cheryl Rubin senior vp • brand management

Jeff Trojan vp • business development, DC direct

Bob Wayne vp • sales

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS AND WRITERS

the usual gang of idiots

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MAD, Dept. 493, 1700 Broadway

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THE FUNDALINIPAGES



WAYS TO AVOID PAYING TO CHECK A SUITCASE WHEN YOU FLY

1 Dress in layers. Wearing 8 pairs of underwear, 4 pairs of pants, 6 shirts and 3 jackets means one less suitcase to check. Not only will you save money, but if you're hit by a car, it just may save your life!

2 Buy a large umbrella and fill it with all your toiletries, small electronics and snacks. But remember, don't open it! It's bad luck to open an umbrella on an airplane!

3 Reading material is not considered luggage. Hollow out a large Bible and pack it full of socks, handkerchiefs and maybe even some reading material!

4 Wear a stovepipe hat. Not only can it carry a hell of a lot of stuff but you'll look patriotic.

5 Take a page from Colombian drug mules. (Note: If you're a heavy packer, you might start swallowing a few days prior to your departure.)



PULL MY CHENEY!



"IS HE... IS HE..."

THE GODFREY REPORT	IN	FIVE MINUTES AGO	OUT
	Fleets	Armadas	Flotillas
	Shacks	Huts	Shanties
	Balderdash	Poppycock	Piffle

CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

This Month MILEY CYRUS

Genetic achy breaky heart defect.....2:1

Fatal complications from experimental Disney drugs to keep her a teenager forever.....4:1

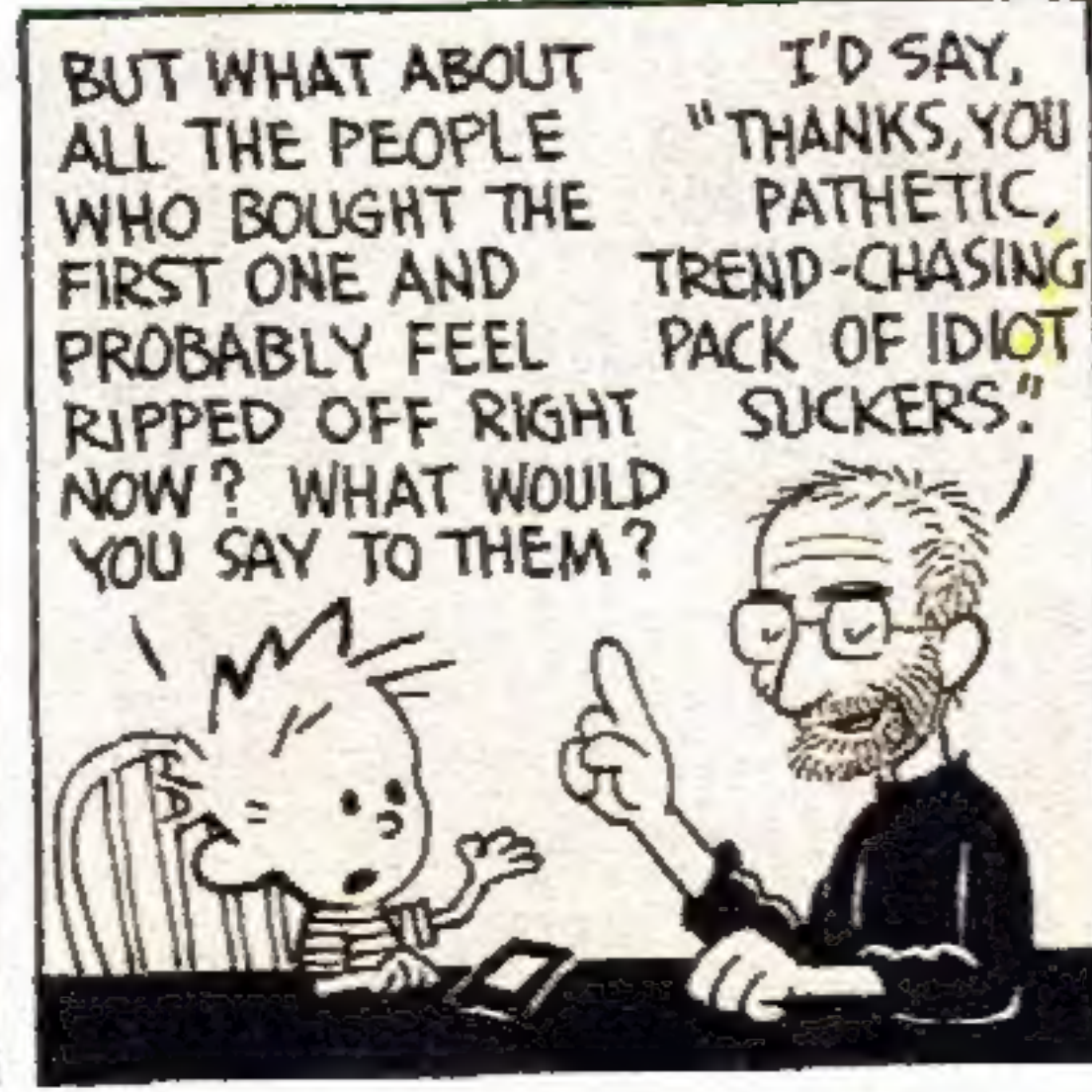
Suicide after going insane from untreated Miley/Hannah Montana split-personality disorder...10:1

Murdered after jealous Nickelodeon execs take out a contract hit on her.....15:1

Late-onset pneumonia from baring her upper back at Vanity Fair photo shoot.....50:1



calvin and Jobs



LOST AND FOUND PETS

FOUND Bichon Havanese



Purebred, looks really valuable, so I'm keeping him. Don't Call 555-4474

LOST ROOSTER "Pepe"

Escaped from weird-looking temple at 7th & Sycamore on the 18th. Pepe is a beloved member of our family we must find. Need for ritual before the next full moon! www.churchofbeelzebub.com

FOUND



LARGE RATS
Please claim soon. They're ruining my apartment. 555-0888

THE CASE OF THE MISSING BUDGIE

Petey vanished last Sunday at 12 noon, in the pouring rain. Three people in area at the time: one saw nothing, another saw a bird fly into Post Office building, the third found a green feather in the bushes. One of them is lying. Do you know who?

SOLUTION ON PAGE D-17

classifieds - dregslst
http://newyork.dregslst.org/search/dissed

DREGSLIST "DISSED CONNECTIONS"

new york dregslst > manhattan > dissed connections

Please report suspected exploitation of minors to the appropriate authorities.

Gym rat - w4m

Reply to: pers-23459827@dregslst.org
Date: 2008-08-18

We met at the gym, around 1:30. You: Angelina Jolie lookalike - which, by the way, I find a little disturbing in a man. Me: 400 lb. sexy lady who dropped barbell on your foot and spilled Gatorade on your shorts. It was an accident! Sorry! Let's meet for brunch.

• no, it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests. What are you, stupid?

lovely in white

Reply to: pers-09345897878@dregslst.org
DATE: 2008-08-17

I saw you early afternoon outside St. Patrick's Cathedral. You were the stunning 5'10" goddess in the long white dress and veil at some sort of religious ceremony. Let's get in touch!

• no, it's NOT ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests, except for that Nigerian deal offering millions of dollars.

tick, tick, tick - w4m - 41

Reply to: pers-56343497795233@dregslst.org
DATE: 2008-08-17

You were that guy with hair of some sort of color and length, wearing a shirt. I was the desperate, middle-aged woman walking down some sidewalk. You may not have even seen me. I want to marry you.

• this is in or around NYC.
• yes, it's ok to contact this poster with services or other commercial interests. People like this are desperate for any kind of human contact.

zoo guy - m4w - 23

Reply to: pers-93634779553234@dregslst.org
DATE: 2008-08-16

I saw you at the Zoo recently; you were late thirties, telling a little kid how cute the koala bear was. Well they aren't bears. They're marsupials, and not even that closely related to bears. That's about all I wanted to say.

• Oh, sure it's ok to send this poster all sorts of spam. Just go ahead and ruin the Internet for everyone.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S "IMPOSSIBLE COIN TOSS CONUNDRUM"

The coin must be flipped so that it lands on edge, showing neither heads nor tails. Not possible, you say? Exactly. Check the name of the puzzle again, genius!



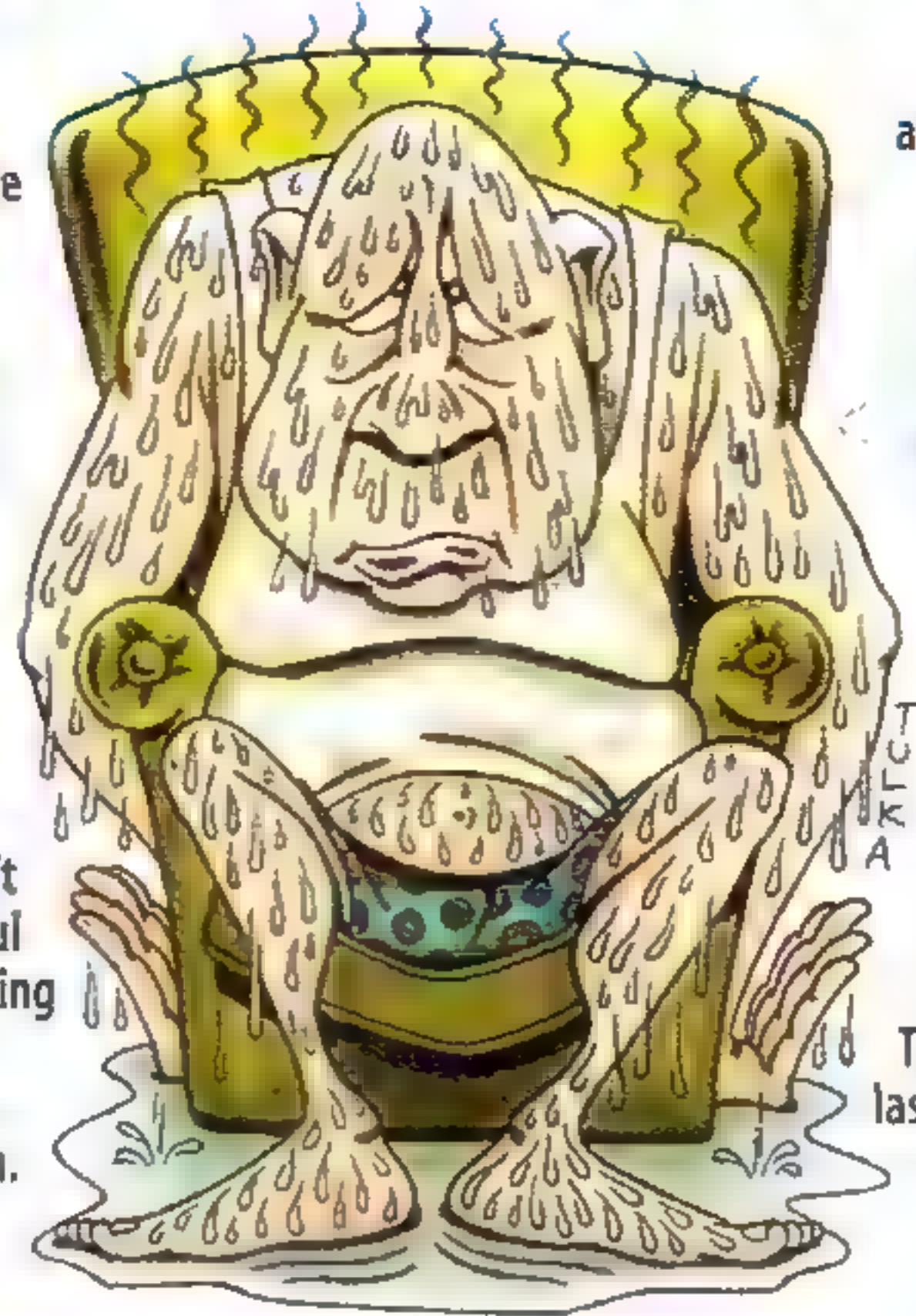
NEXT MONTH:
"The Inescapable Maze!"

Continually whine about how hot it is. Evidently, many people think this works.

You can't go wrong with Gatorade. Is it in you? (This line brought to you by Gatorade)

Check with your local cryogenics lab and see if they offer a 3-month plan.

If you're asleep, you won't notice the heat. A handful of Tylenol PM in the morning should keep you in sweet dreams until the evening, when it finally cools down.



Hey genius, how about turning on the air conditioner?

Go to the supermarket and put frozen goods down the front of your shirt, but make it clear to the security guard that you plan to put them back or he may get the wrong idea.

Let your dog drive while you put your head out the window, for once.

Take an ice-cold shower lasting up to 90 minutes. (Hey, this isn't "Tips on Saving Water")

REJECTED COMIC STRIPS

The Unfunny World of Grant Dullard

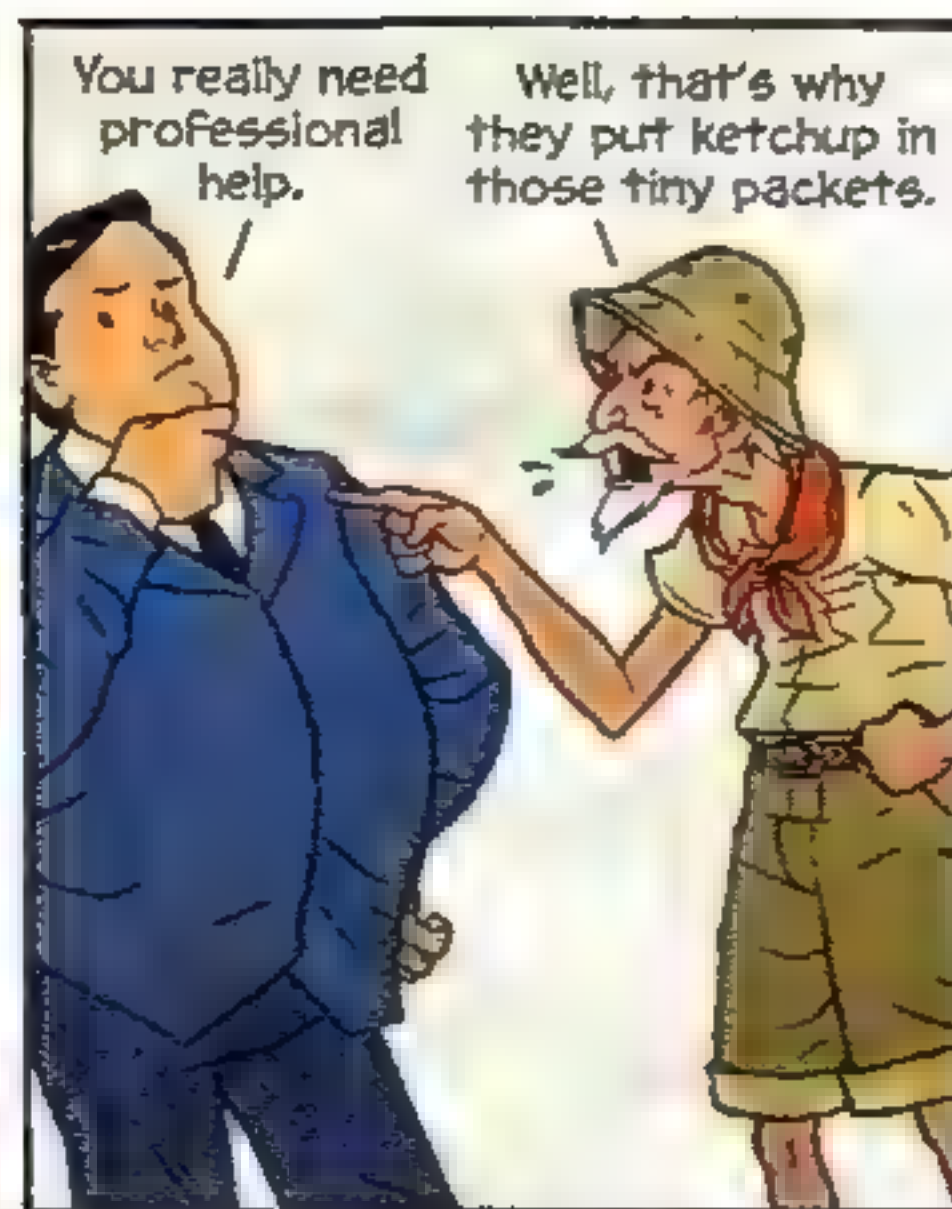


AMNESIA COP



"Do you know why I pulled you over, sir? Because, frankly, I can't remember myself."

DON SEQUITUR



Barack Obama

The 46-Year-Old Political Virgin

He's Come Too Soon.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PICKS A LOW-SHOUT PRODUCTION "THE 46-YEAR-OLD POLITICAL VIRGIN"
STARRING BARACK OBAMA AS THE NAIVE CANDIDATE WHO WANTS TO "TALK SOME SENSE" INTO TERRORISTS
JEREMIAH WRIGHT AS THE PREACHER WHO MAKES PAUL ROBERTSON LOOK MODERATE AND HILLARY CLINTON AS THE LOSER WHO IS MESSING AROUND "JUST IN CASE."

RATED
R/AACT

NOT BE SUITABLE FOR
WORKING CLASS WORKS

CO-MANAGED BY
HUNTING

BASED ON SEASON ONE OF "24"



The latest Indiana Jones movie was the biggest of them all! And by that we mean, the biggest disappointment! Here is...

INDIANA JONES and the KINGDOM OF THE CREATIVE DRY SPELL

I'm Inbanana Jones! It's been 19 years since my last adventure! When I was 40, fighting Nazis, outrunning boulders and saving damsels was all in a days work! Now I'm happy if I get in a good bowel movement before bedtime! Talk about edge-of-your-seat cliffhangers! In *Raiders of the Lost Art* a cave entrance was creaking! In the *Temple of Gloom* a vault door was creaking! Now it's ME that's creaking! Let's face it...I AM the *Antique Roadshow*!

Friends say I'm too old! I should stick to teaching and *not* adventure! But I can still "bring it"! Here's the plot in a nutshell. In this sequel I'm on the trail of a skull that must be returned to a lost city in the Amazon which is guarded by the undead and then I...zzzzzz...Wait — what was I talking about again?

I'm Muck Wilson! I'm a 50s greaser! They needed a younger sidekick for Harrison Ford. God, they could have gotten Ian McKeilen! Okay, I'm not here because of my acting but I do possess skills that can help limpy on his difficult journey for the skull! I twirl a switchblade. I ride a motorcycle and, mainly, I know CPR and how to work a defibrillator!

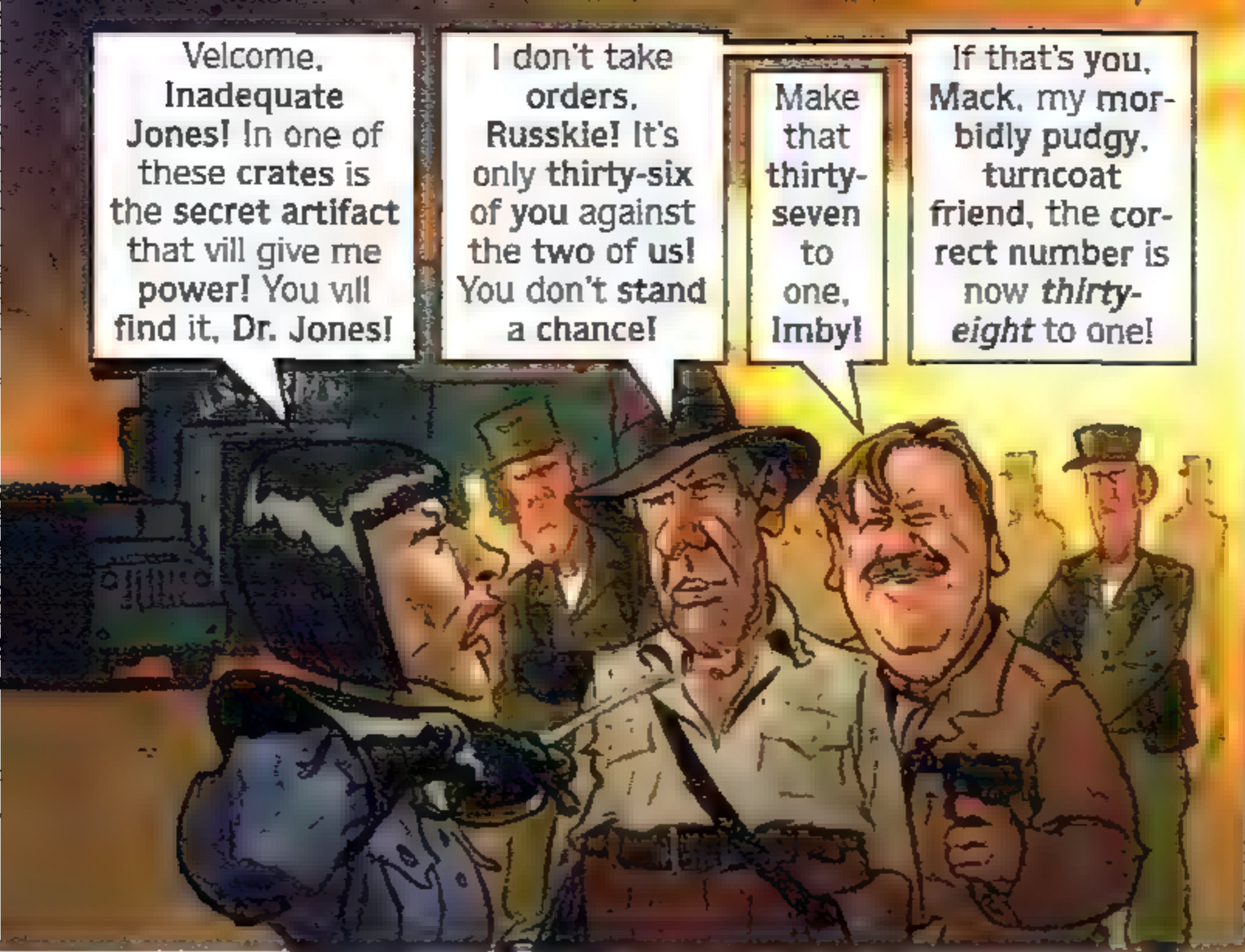
I'm Marryin Ravingwood! Last time I saw Influenza Jones was in *Raiders*! They called and asked me back! Here's a surprise — I was available! The idea was to rekindle the romance! Influenza falls for me again in this sequel! It's no big whoops since the only other feminine presence around is a Russian with a bad haircut and a sword! Originally they wanted Prince Caspian but he was busy with his *own* movie!

Hi, I'm Lox Loxley! I'm the world's foremost authority on ancient skulls! This has gotten me tributes and accolades from my colleagues! But it has not been a great pick-up line at singles bars! Women from Kokomo to Peru think I'm a crazed lunatic! Which, incidentally, I am! How crazed? Let me put it this way: I think this is the best *Incompetent Jones* movie yet! Now if you'll excuse me, Mr. Skull here has just reminded me I need to go line my hat with coconut shells so the monkeys can't monitor my brainwaves!

In the early Incontinent Jones films the Nazis were the baddies! Now, Incontinent tangles vit the Russians! He vill lose! I vill break him! I'm Ireeka Shpilkis, villainous Soviet agent and Stalin's main squeeze! I am KGB — Kinky Gorgeous Bolshevik! I vas decorated vith the Order of Lenin! I vas brilliant in math, a genius in science but I failed "accent"! For that they punished me! Not with exile to Siberia but I was sent to a blind barber in Pinsk who gave me this haircut!

I'm Mack "Gorge" McHeel! My part in this film is a screenwriter's oldie but goody — sidekick/traitor! I switch sides more often than Ryan Seacrest at a prom! I'm called a "double agent." From the looks of me that should be a surprise to no one — I enjoy both cheeseburgers and fries or borscht and potatoes! In this film I'll go with whatever side has the best grub! I'm thinking of working for the Chinese just for the lo mein!

This movie can't be all car chases, eye-popping effects and mysterious natives! There has to be quiet times. Reflective moments. Boring exchanges. That's where I come in. I'm Charles Steerforth! I'm Dean of Marshmallow College at the time of this film in 1957! I chat! I talk about hieroglyphics! I discuss maps! Coincidentally, 1957 is the same year the snooze alarm was invented!



Welcome, Inadequate Jones! In one of these crates is the secret artifact that will give me power! You will find it, Dr. Jones!

I don't take orders, Russkie! It's only thirty-six of you against the two of us! You don't stand a chance!

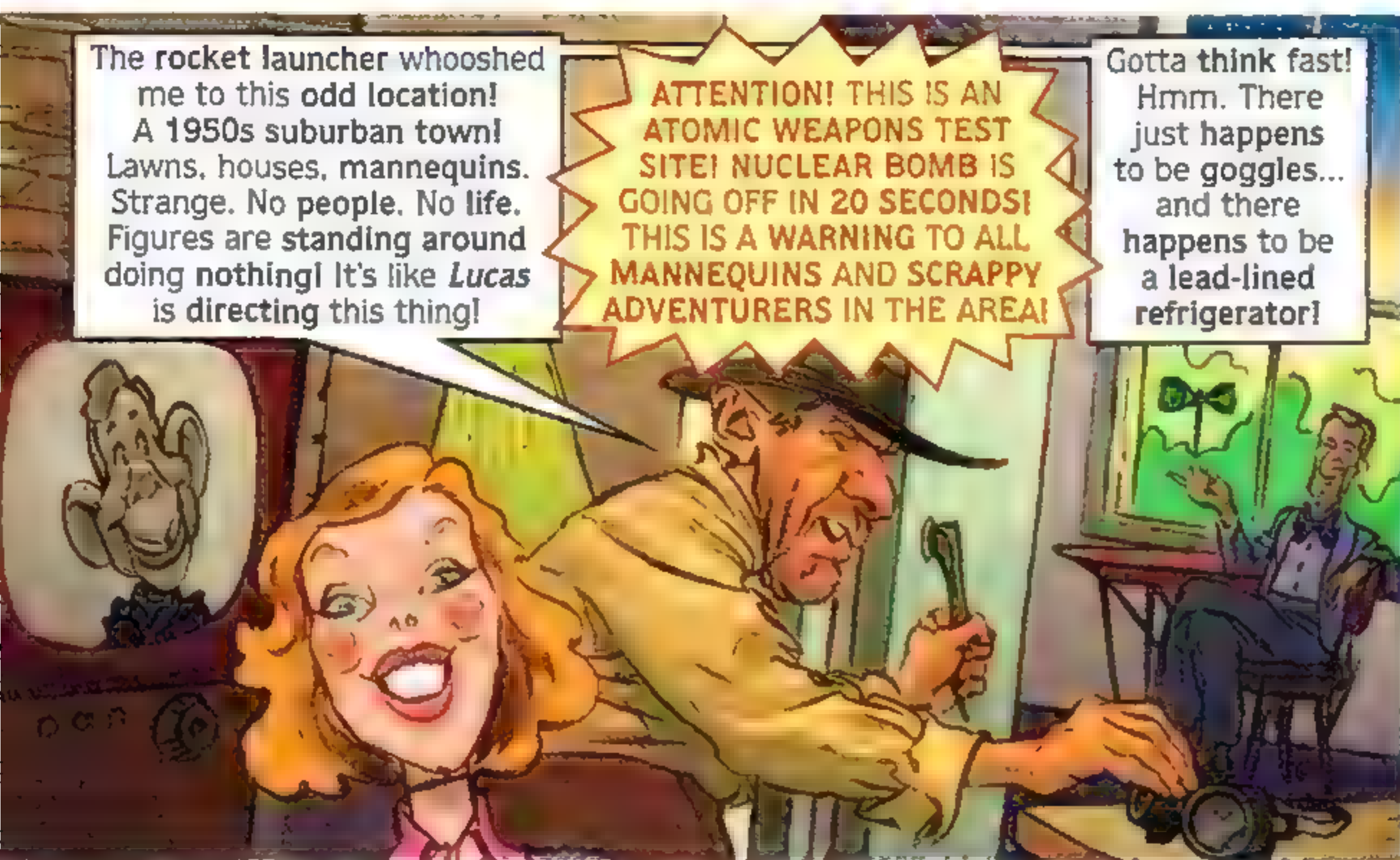
Make that thirty-seven to one, Imby!

If that's you, Mack, my morbidly pudgy, turncoat friend, the correct number is now *thirty-eight* to one!



Ever see a warehouse this huge? It's like a mystical Costco!

It's not surprising! It contains all the previously rejected writers' drafts of this movie!



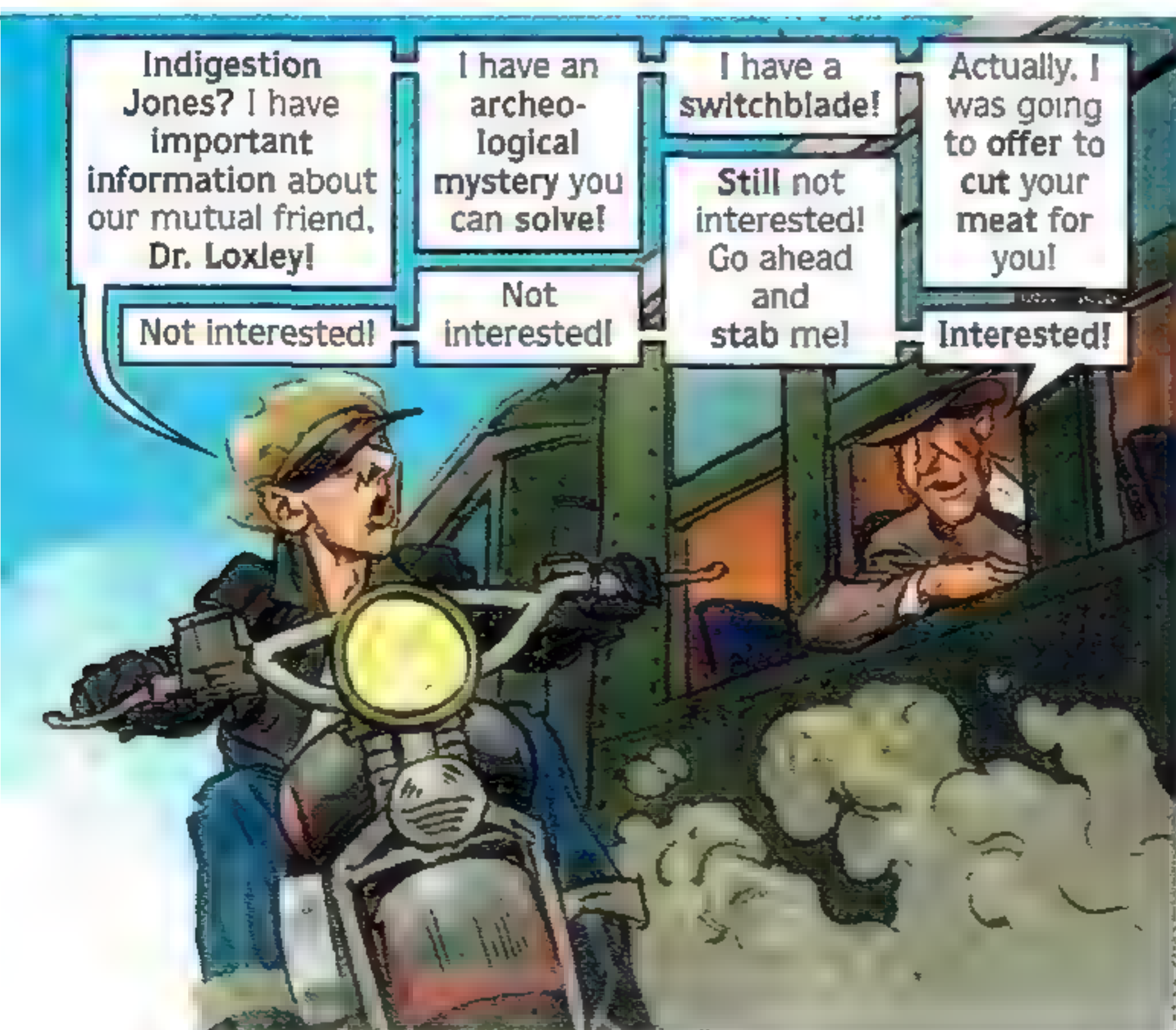
The rocket launcher whooshed me to this odd location! A 1950s suburban town! Lawns, houses, mannequins. Strange. No people. No life. Figures are standing around doing nothing! It's like *Lucas* is directing this thing!

ATTENTION! THIS IS AN ATOMIC WEAPONS TEST SITE! NUCLEAR BOMB IS GOING OFF IN 20 SECONDS! THIS IS A WARNING TO ALL MANNEQUINS AND SCRAPPY ADVENTURERS IN THE AREA!

Gotta think fast! Hmm. There just happens to be goggles... and there happens to be a lead-lined refrigerator!



Perfect! Made it. Safe from the radiation! Hey, that's funny — the little light is staying on even when the door is closed! Oh crap, that glow is coming from *me*!



Indigestion Jones? I have important information about our mutual friend, Dr. Loxley!

Not interested!

I have an archeological mystery you can solve!

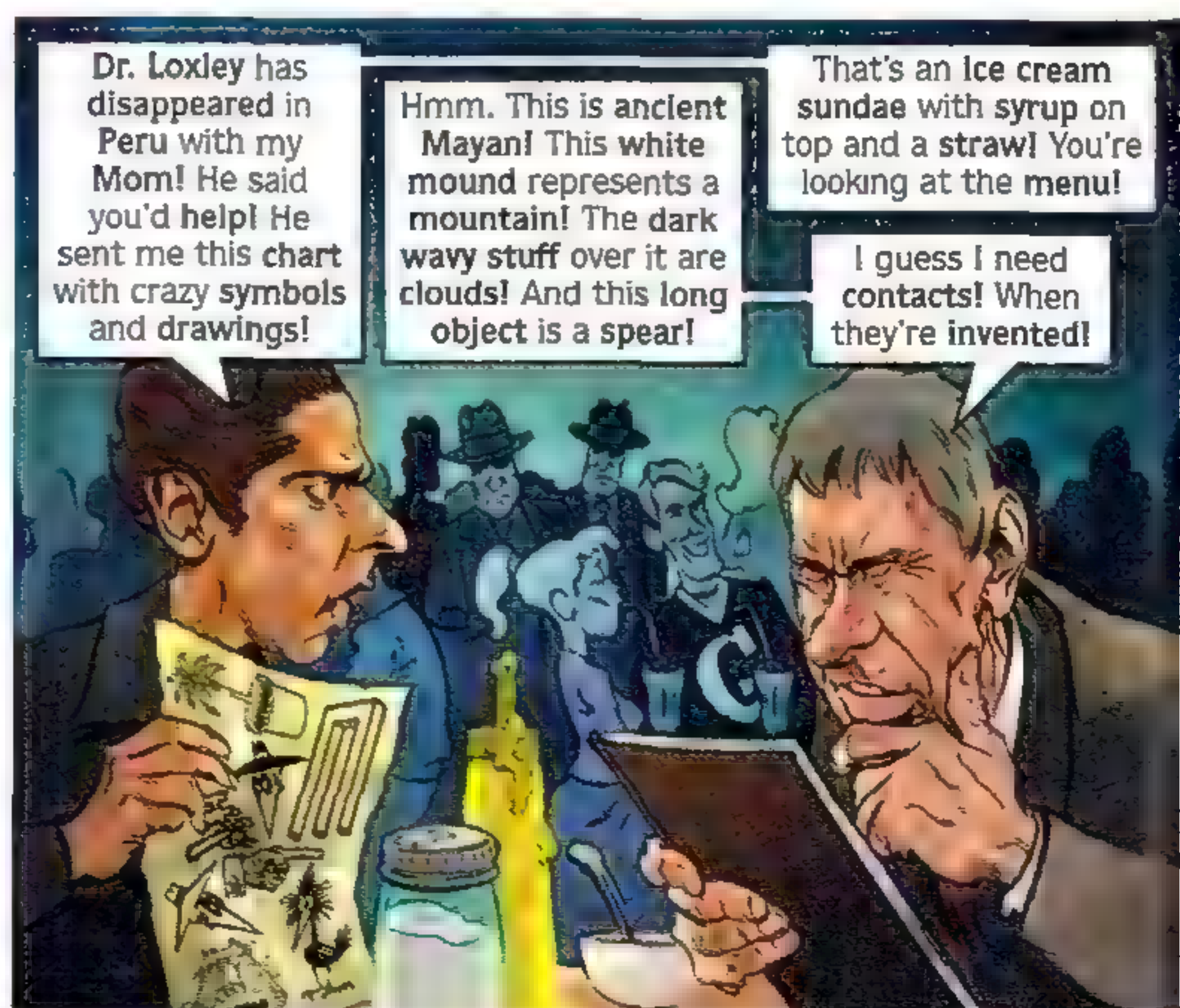
Not interested!

I have a switchblade!

Still not interested! Go ahead and stab me!

Actually, I was going to offer to cut your meat for you!

Interested!

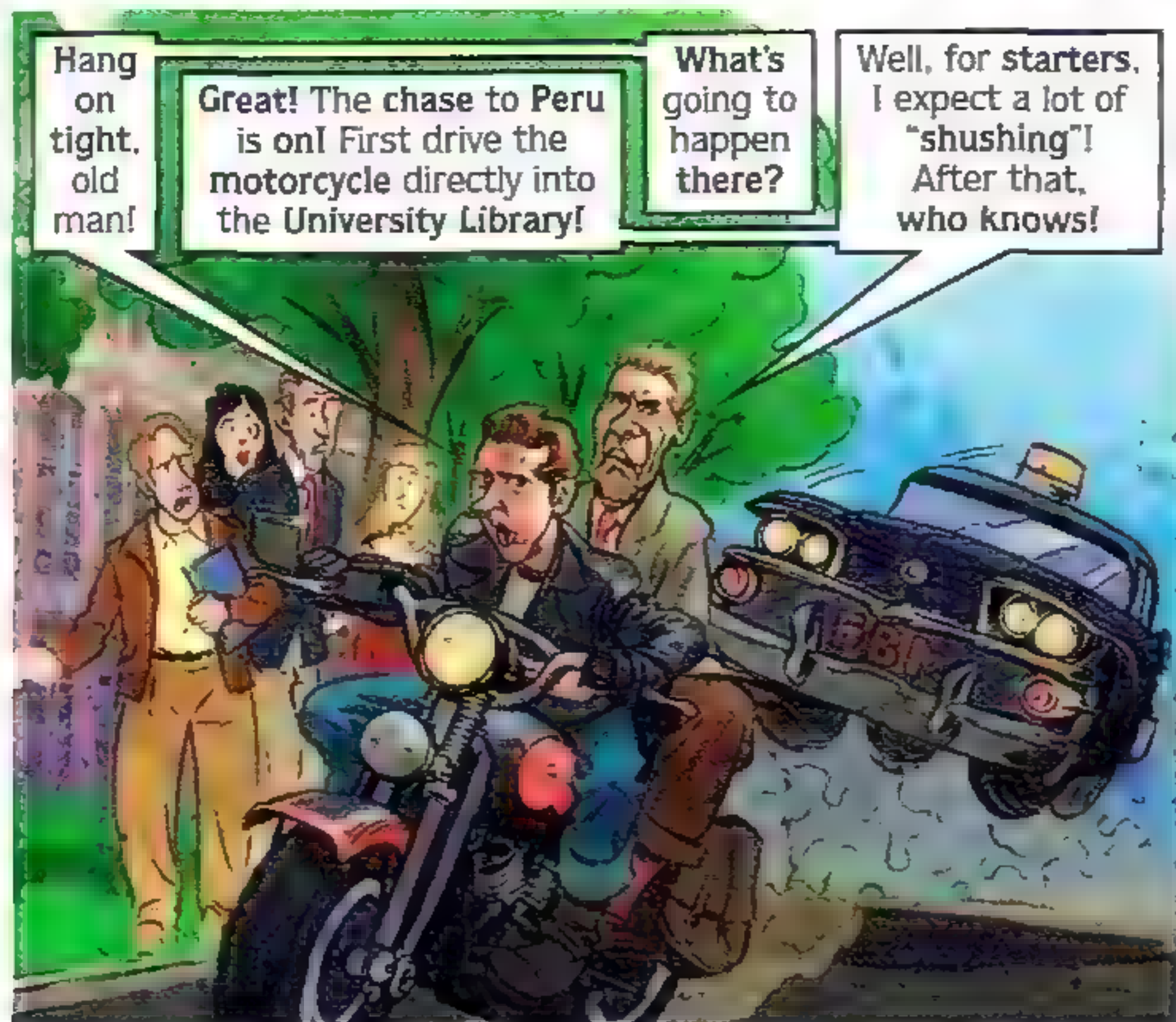


Dr. Loxley has disappeared in Peru with my Mom! He said you'd help! He sent me this chart with crazy symbols and drawings!

Hmm. This is ancient Mayan! This white mound represents a mountain! The dark wavy stuff over it are clouds! And this long object is a spear!

That's an ice cream sundae with syrup on top and a straw! You're looking at the menu!

I guess I need contacts! When they're invented!



Hang on tight, old man!

Great! The chase to Peru is on! First drive the motorcycle directly into the University Library!

What's going to happen there?

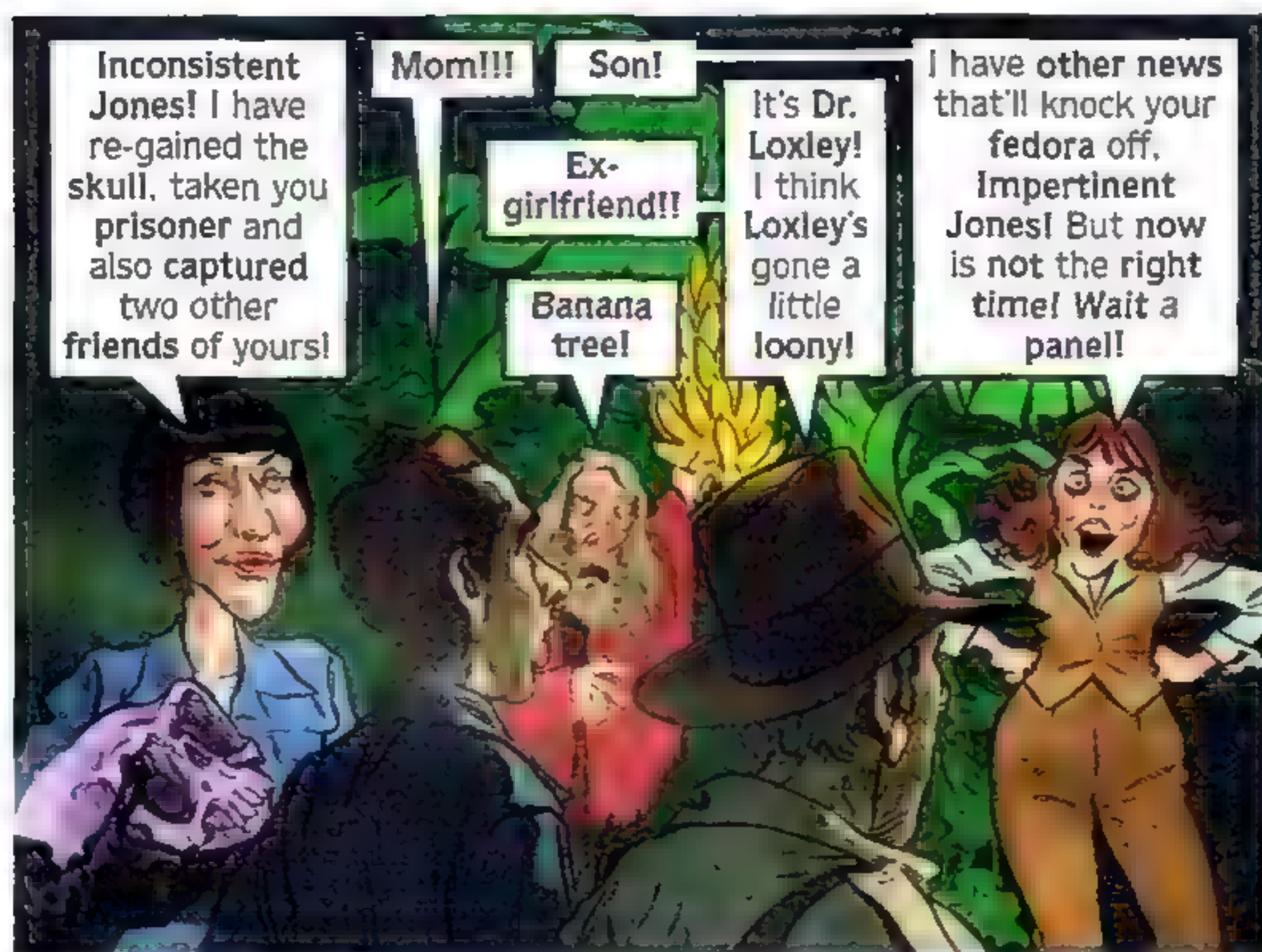
Well, for starters, I expect a lot of "shushing"! After that, who knows!



Our first stop is a haunted Inca cemetery! We're looking for the skull of the Conquistador of Albacore!

We'll never survive this! Because of the scorpions, the fiendish traps, the hostile natives coming out of the walls and shooting blow guns?

Because it's 112 degrees and we're both wearing leather jackets!



Inconsistent Jones! I have re-gained the skull, taken you prisoner and also captured two other friends of yours!

Mom!!!

Son!

Ex-girlfriend!!

Banana tree!

It's Dr. Loxley! I think Loxley's gone a little loony!

I have other news that'll knock your fedora off. Impertinent Jones! But now is not the right time! Wait a panel!

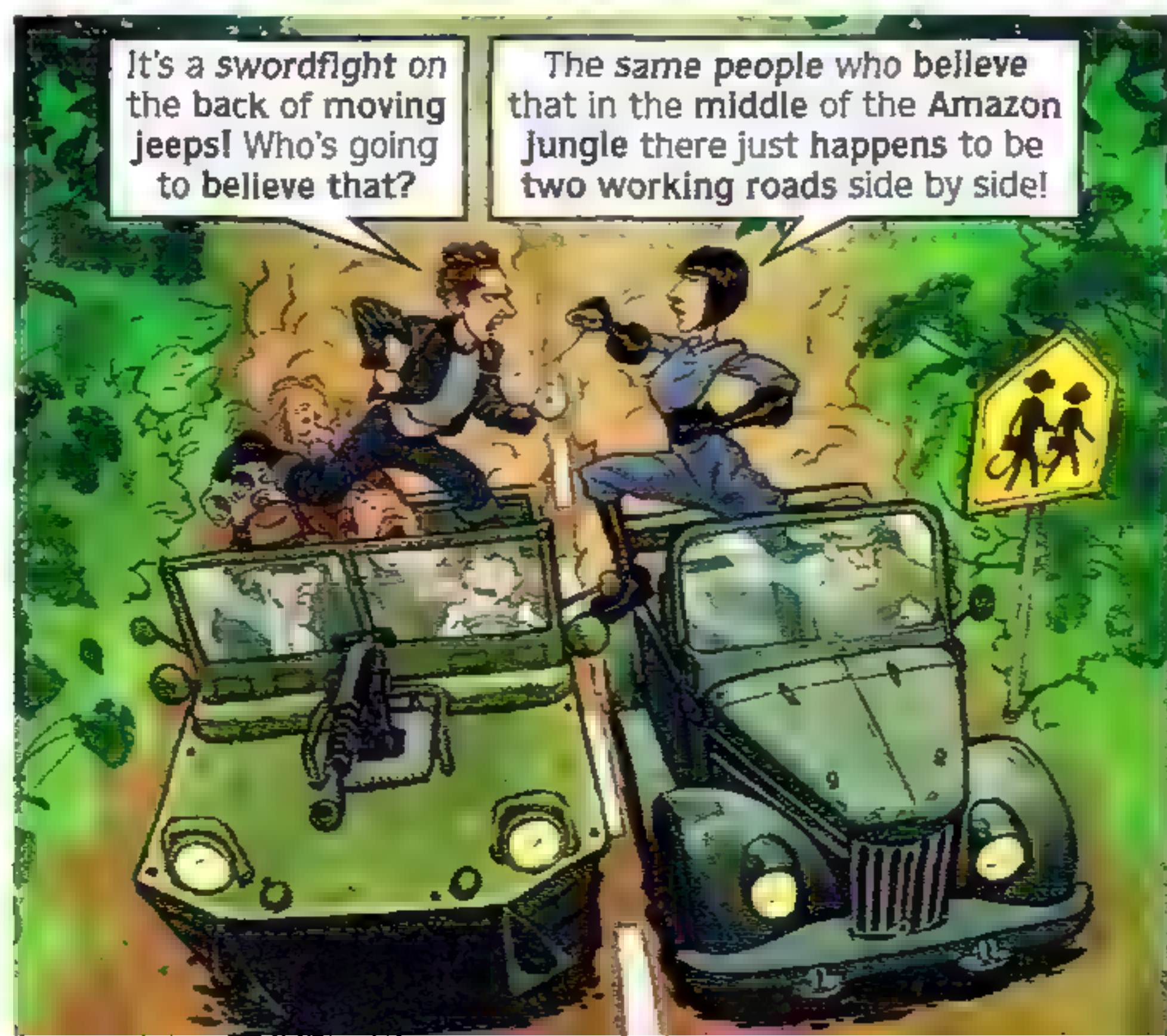


Okay, now is the right time for my news!

Now?! While I'm holding on to a snake and sinking in quicksand!?

When you hear this news you may want to let go! Muck, here, is your son! Well, anything to say, Incorrigible Jones?

Not to you! Only to the snake! Bite me!



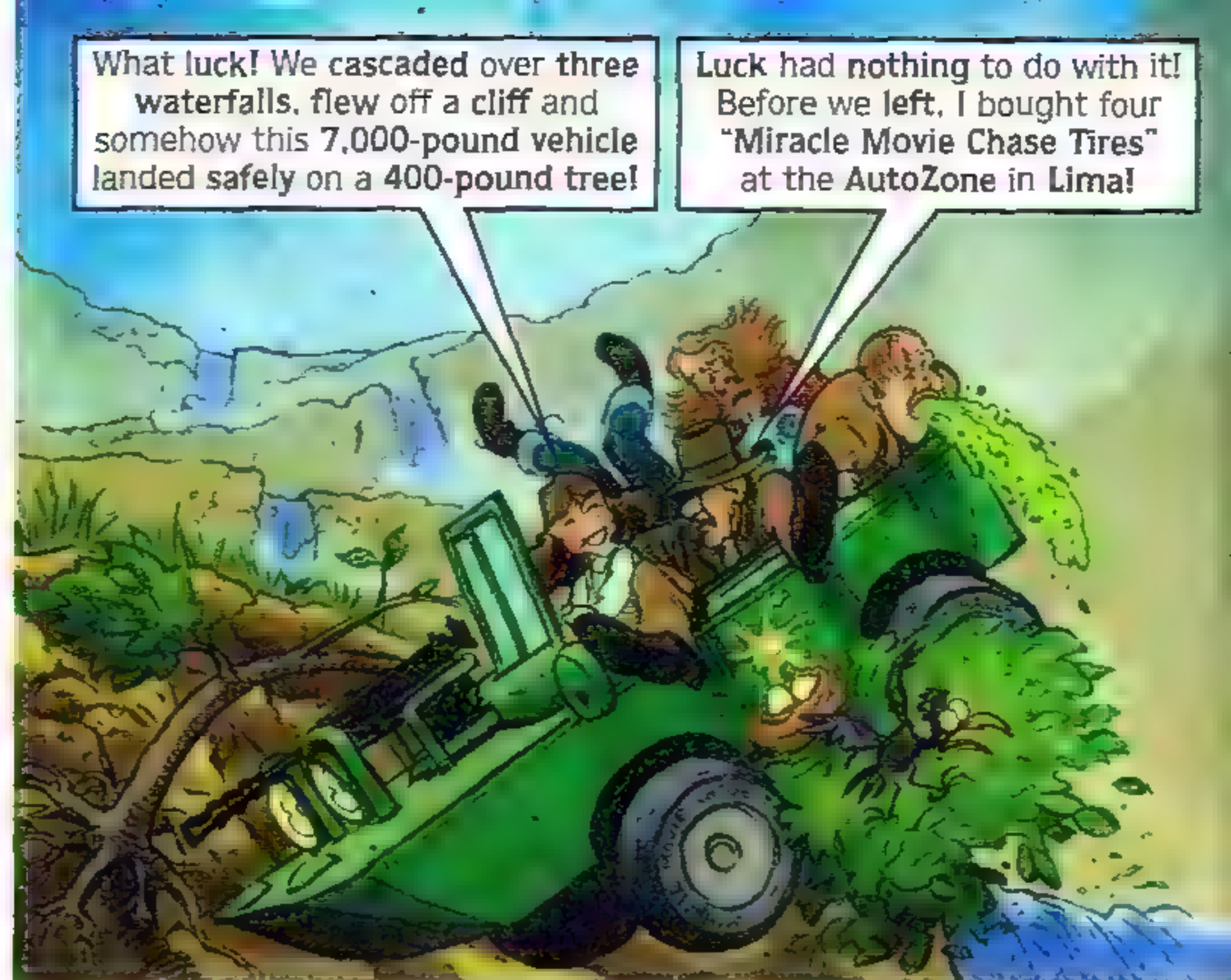
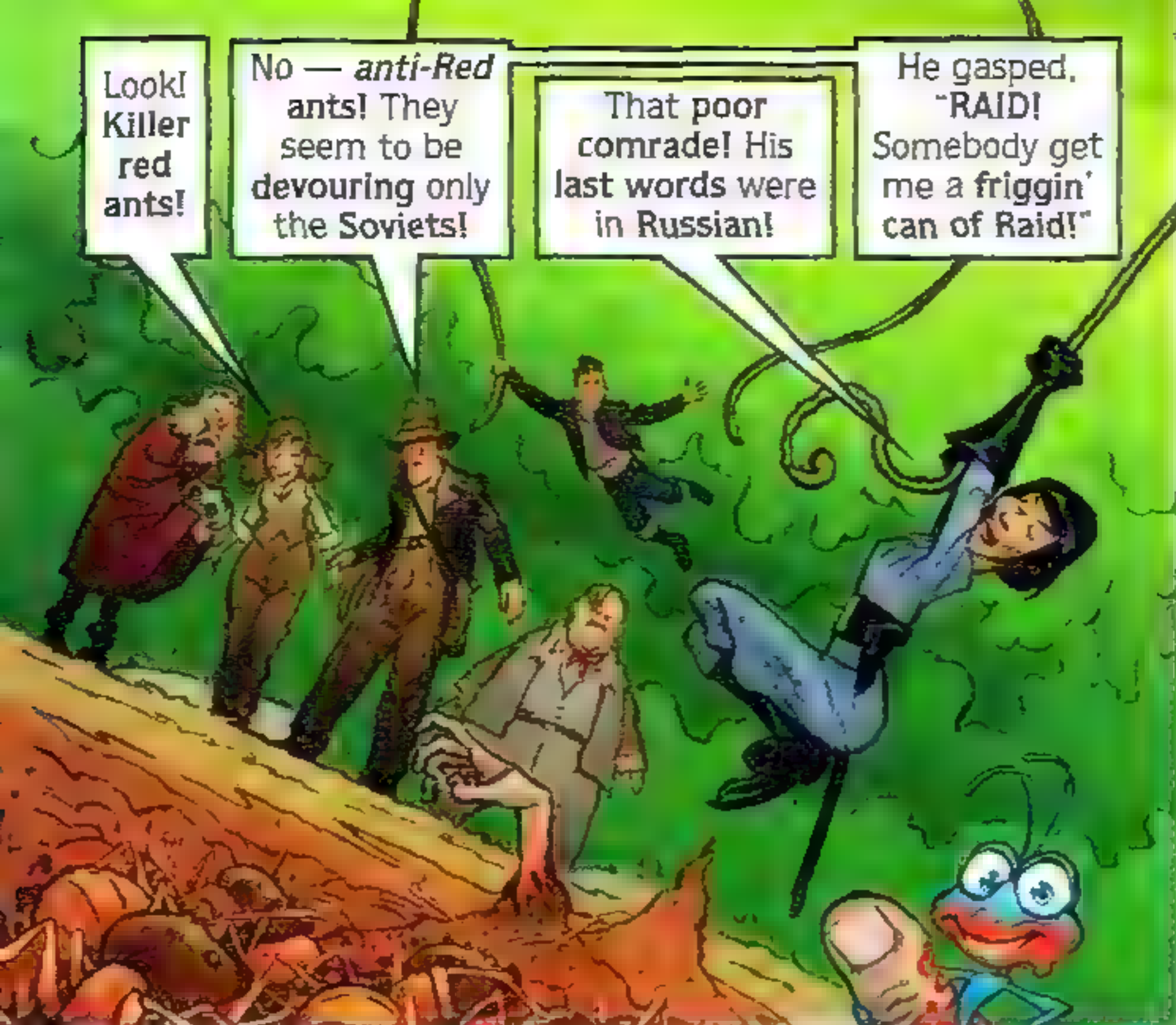
It's a swordfight on the back of moving jeeps! Who's going to believe that?

The same people who believe that in the middle of the Amazon jungle there just happens to be two working roads side by side!



Suddenly Muck is swinging from vine to vine doing Tarzan! This is preposterous!

Again, let me remind you folks about an aging archeologist in a nuclear refrigerator who didn't so much as get a paper cut! Don't talk to me about preposterous!





Adam Jones / Photo: Bo Bridges

WATCH IT LIVE ALL SUMMER LONG
ON NBC AND USA

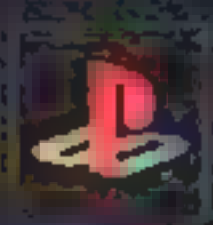


Panasonic

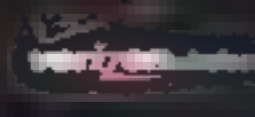
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GUARD



TOYOTA



WONCOOSE



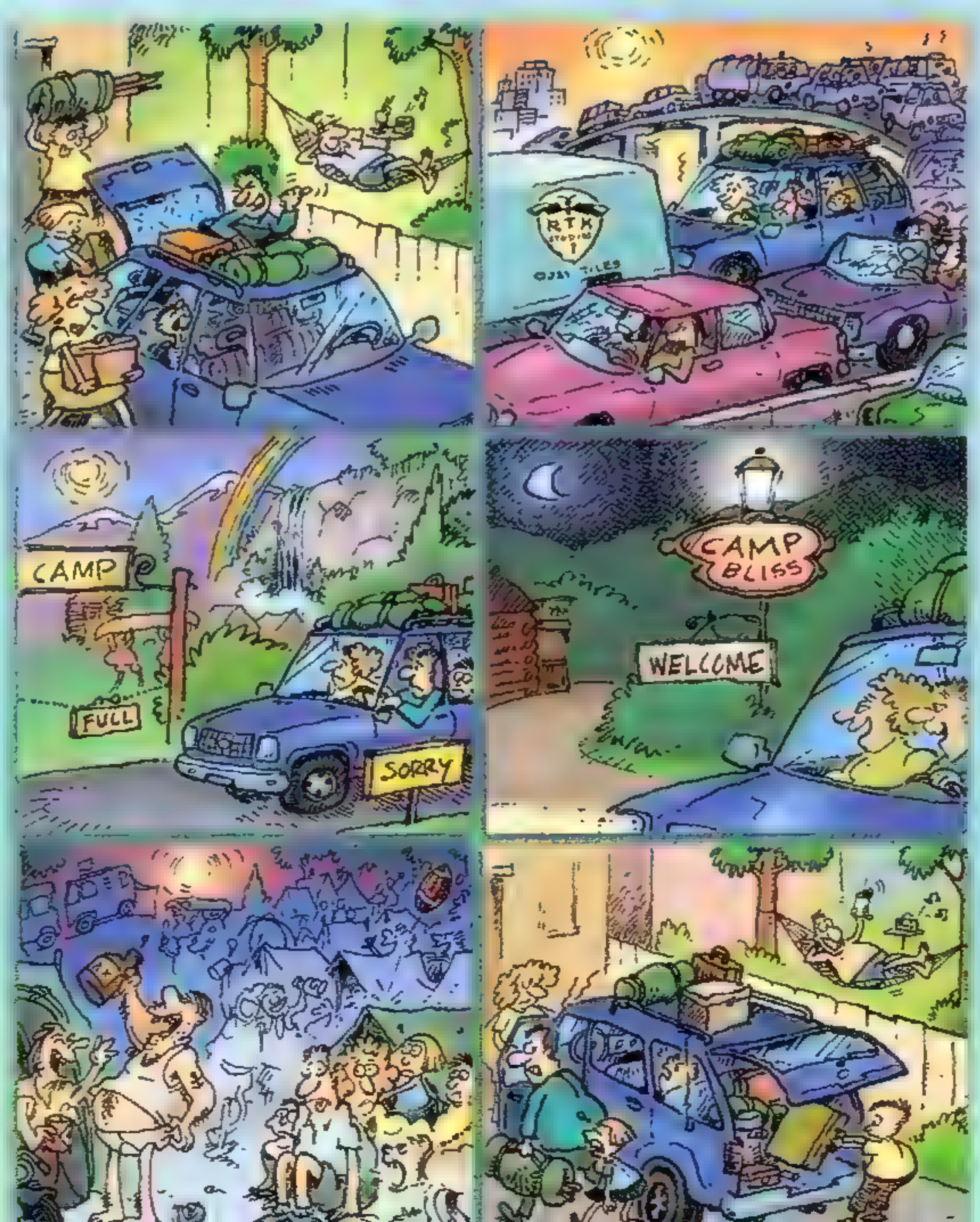
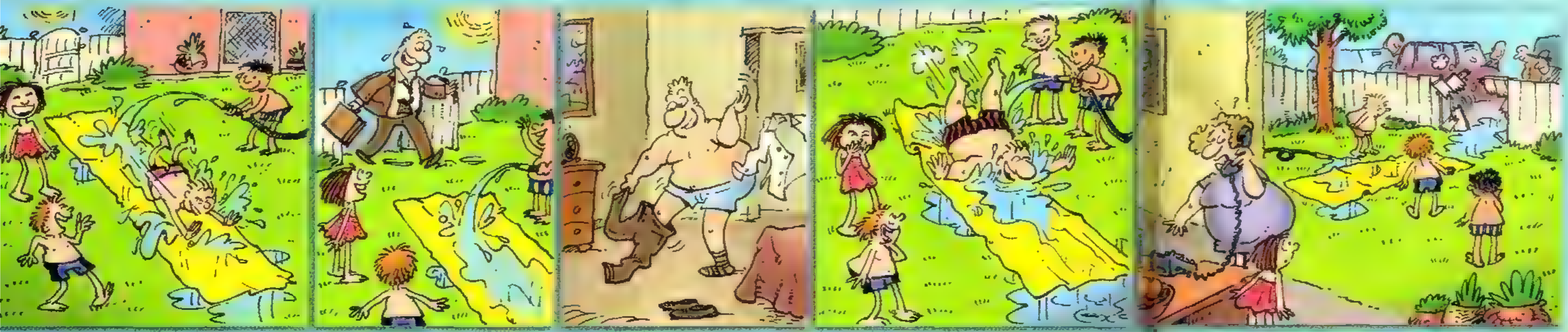
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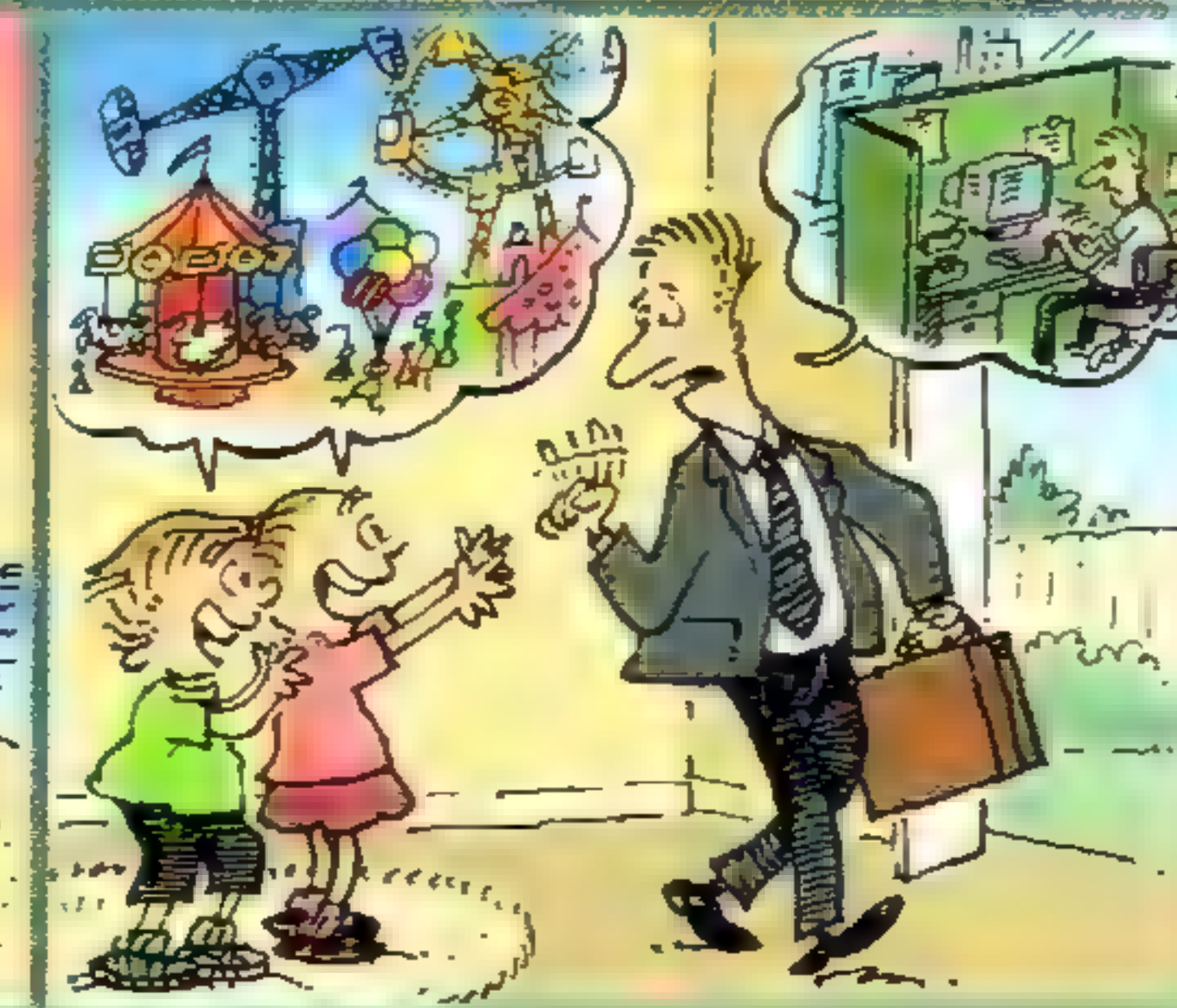
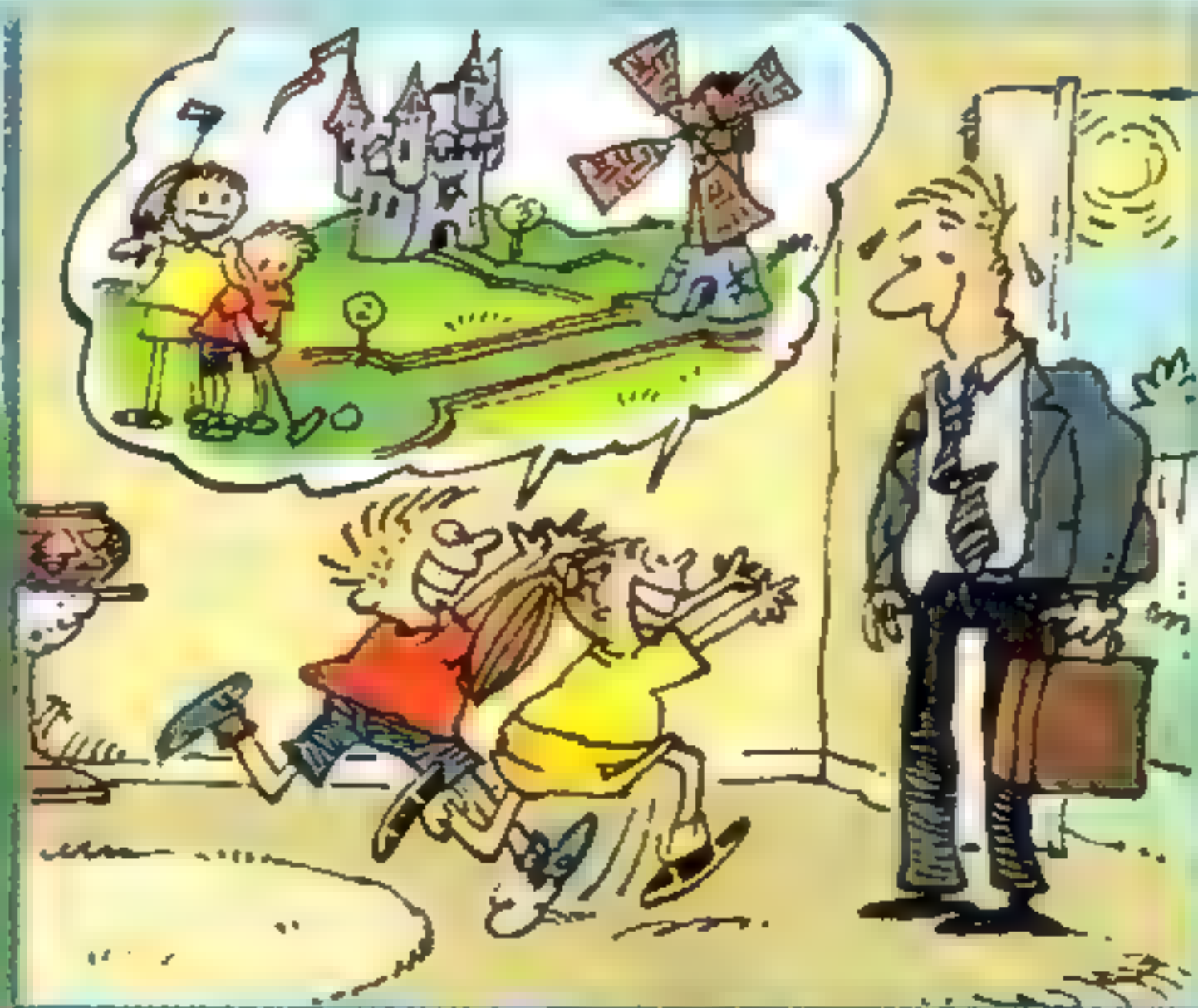
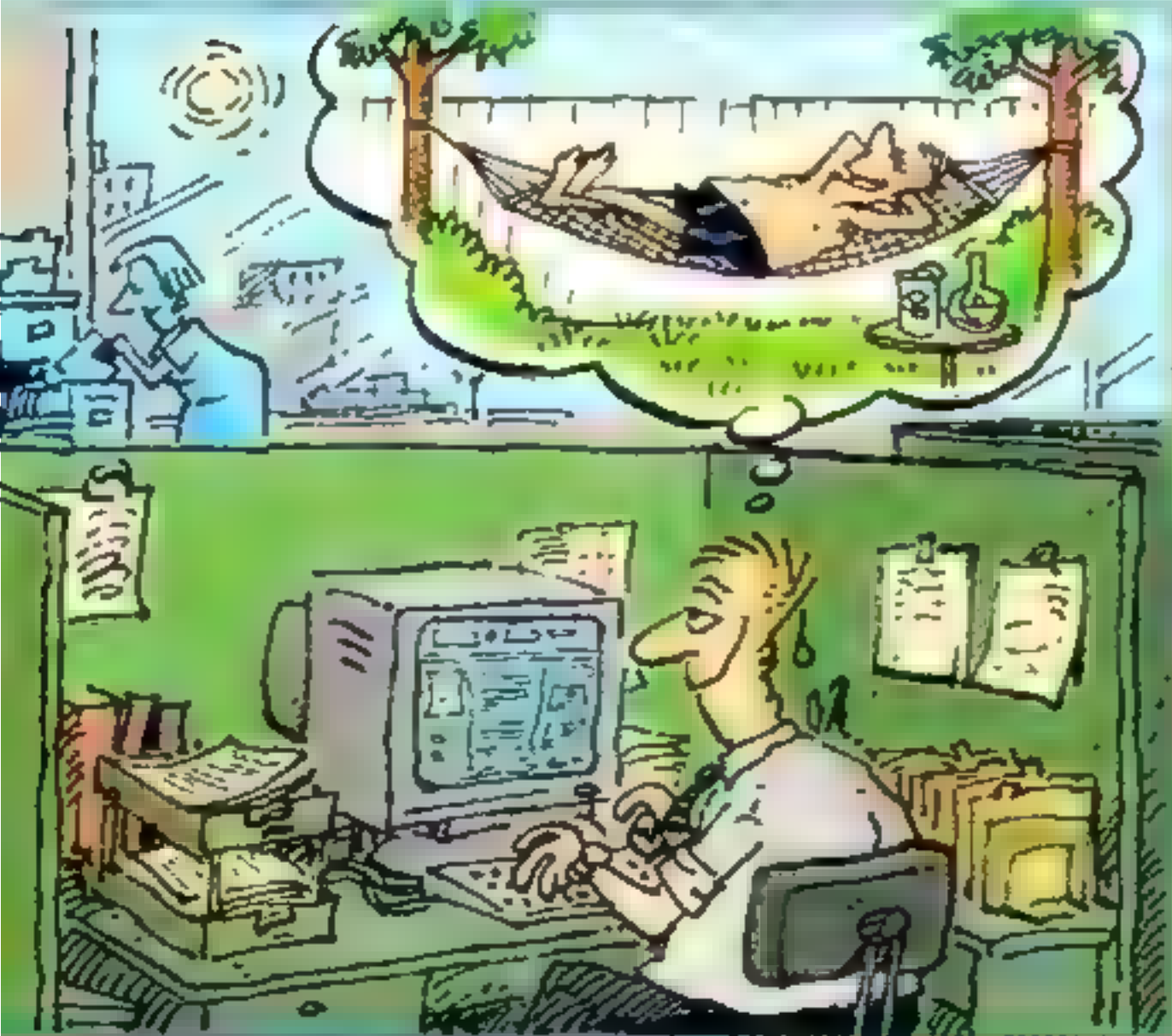
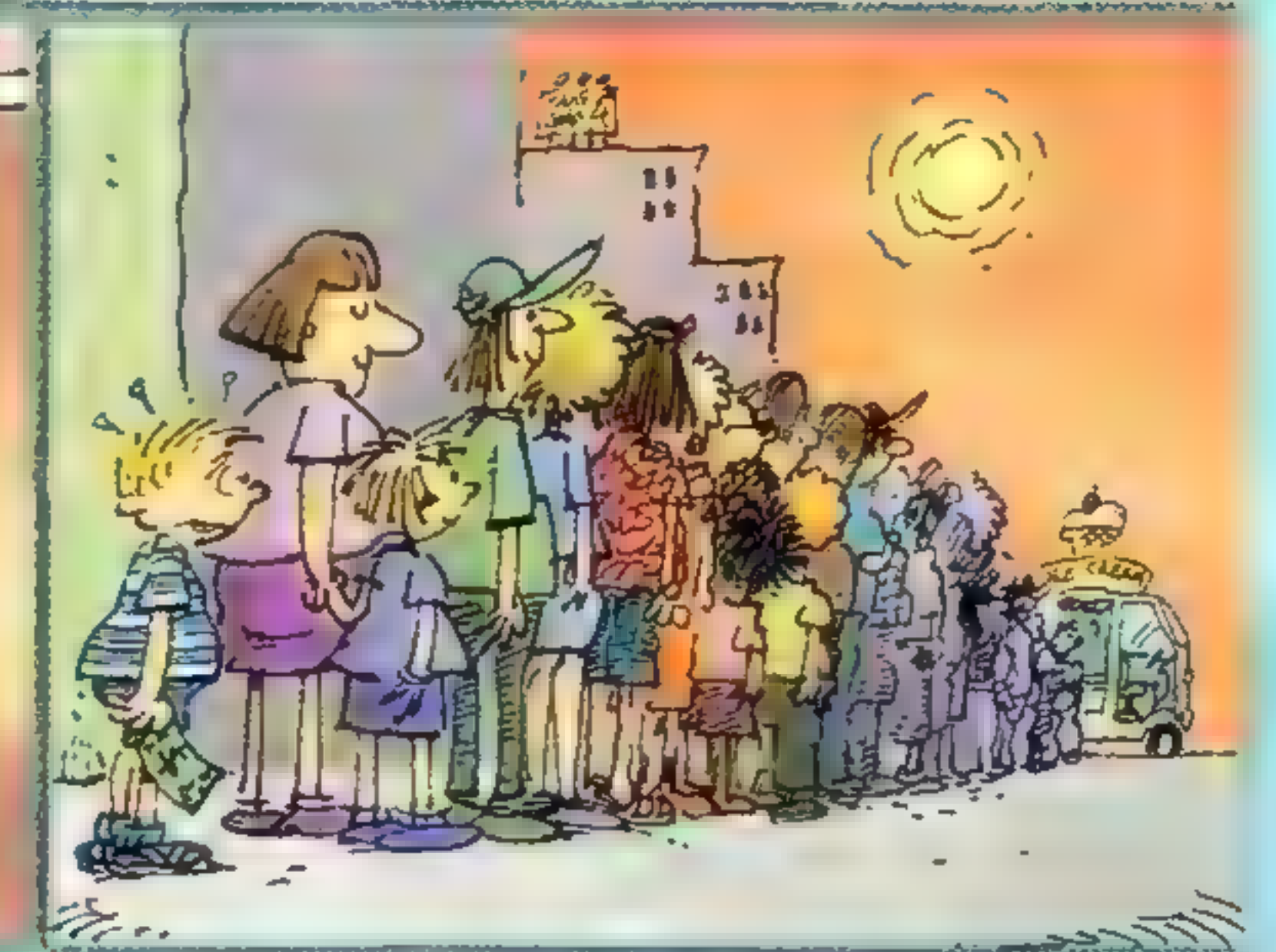
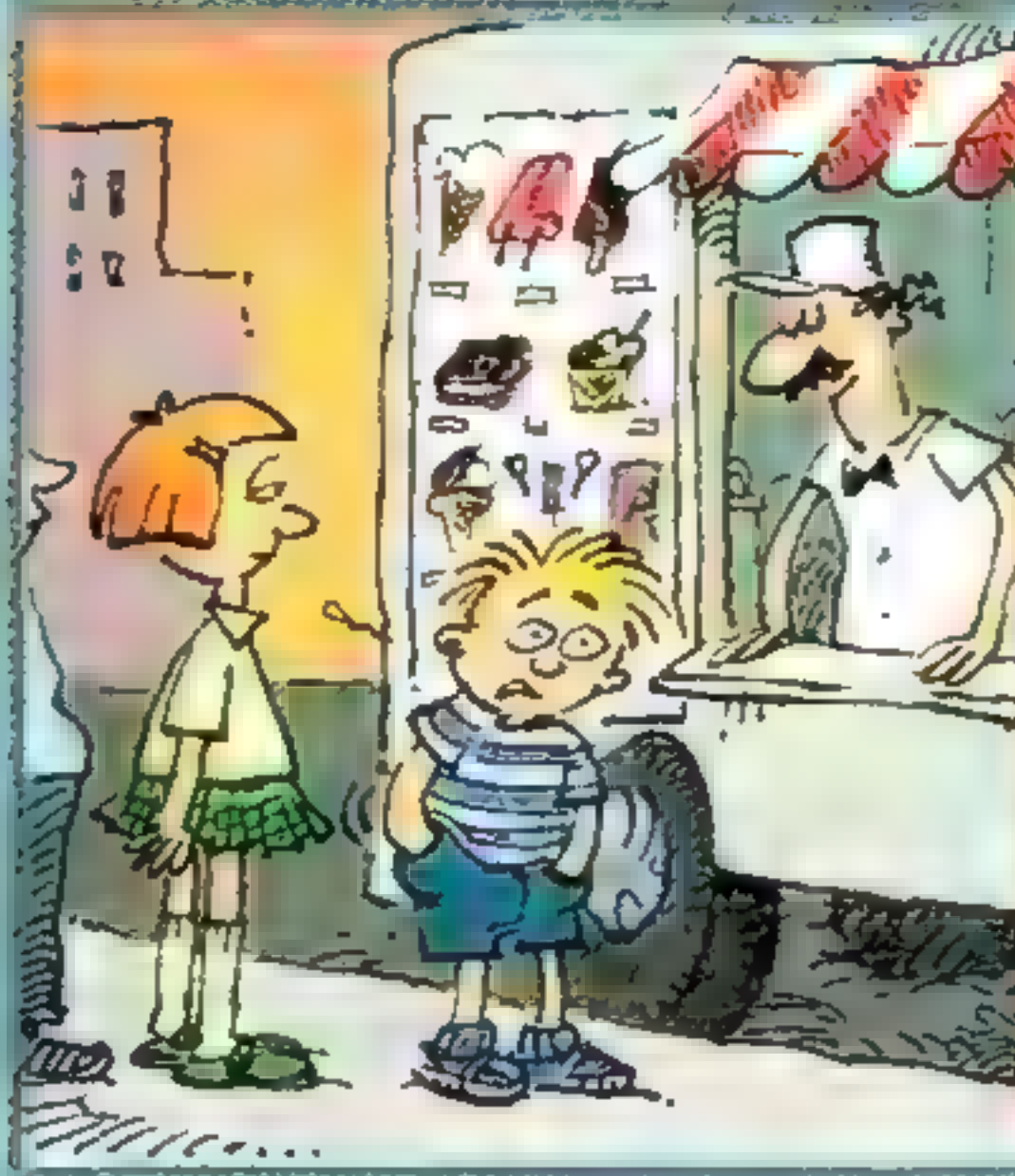
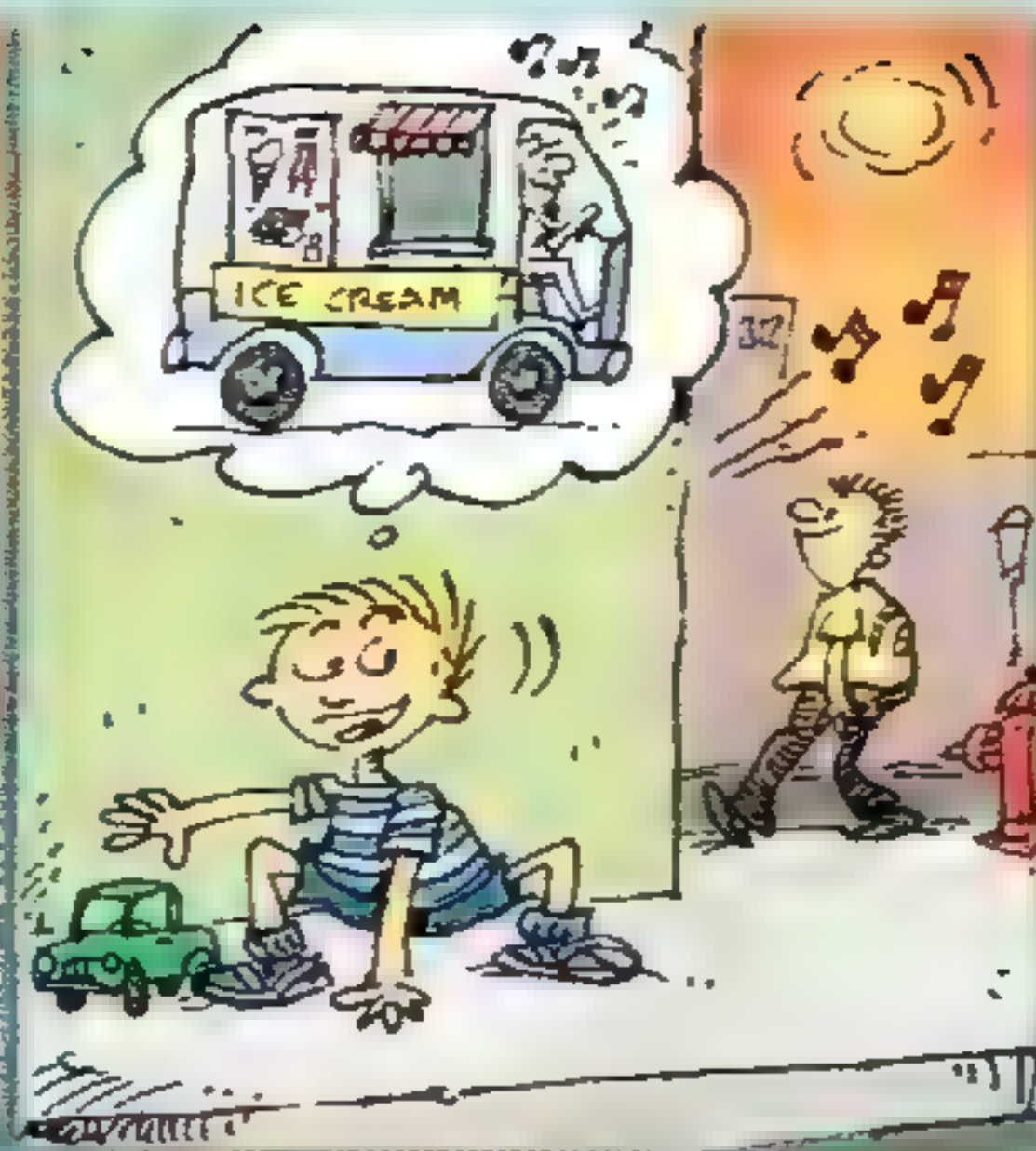
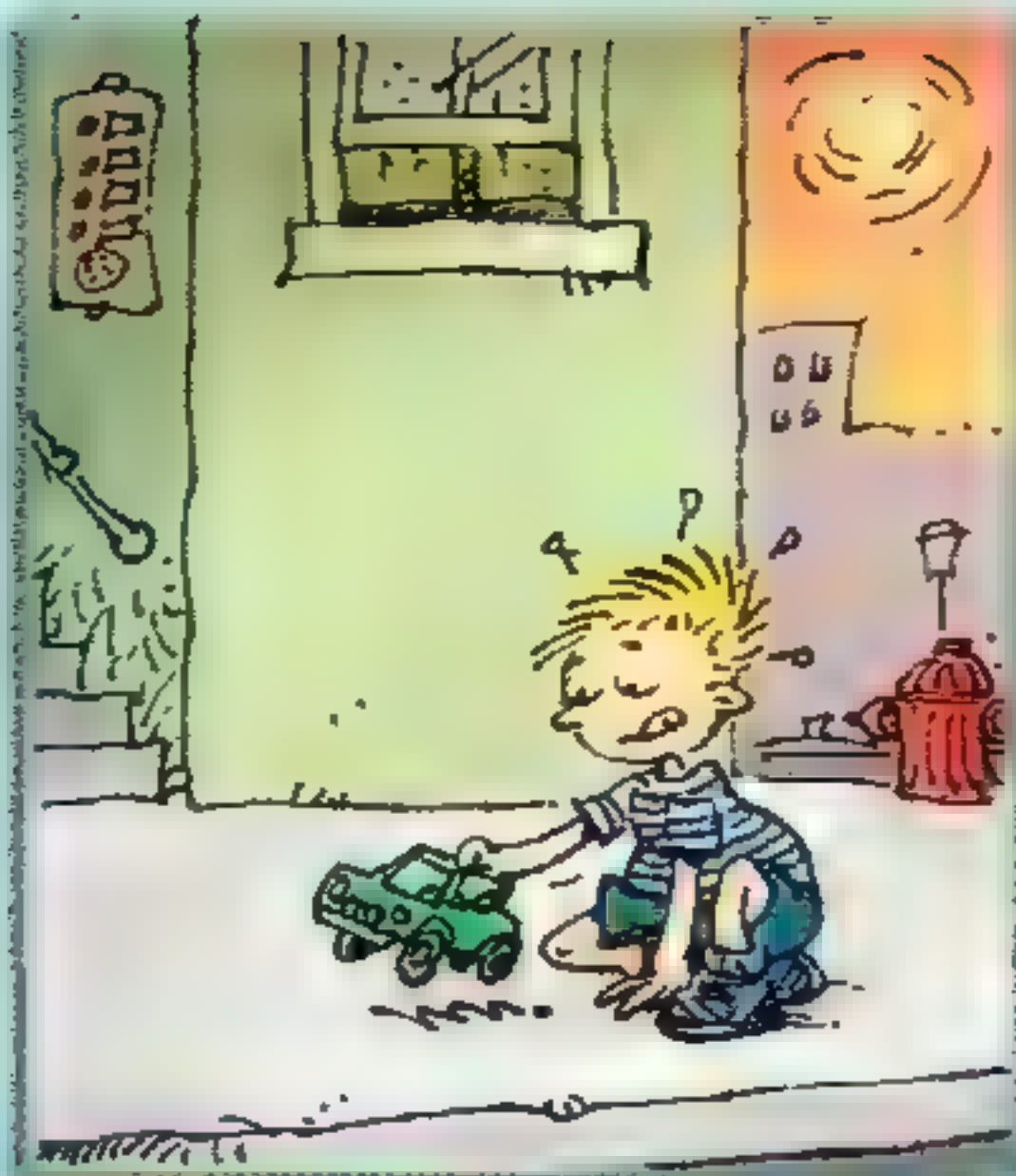
Sergio Aragonés
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A MAD LOOK AT SUMMER FUN



WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES





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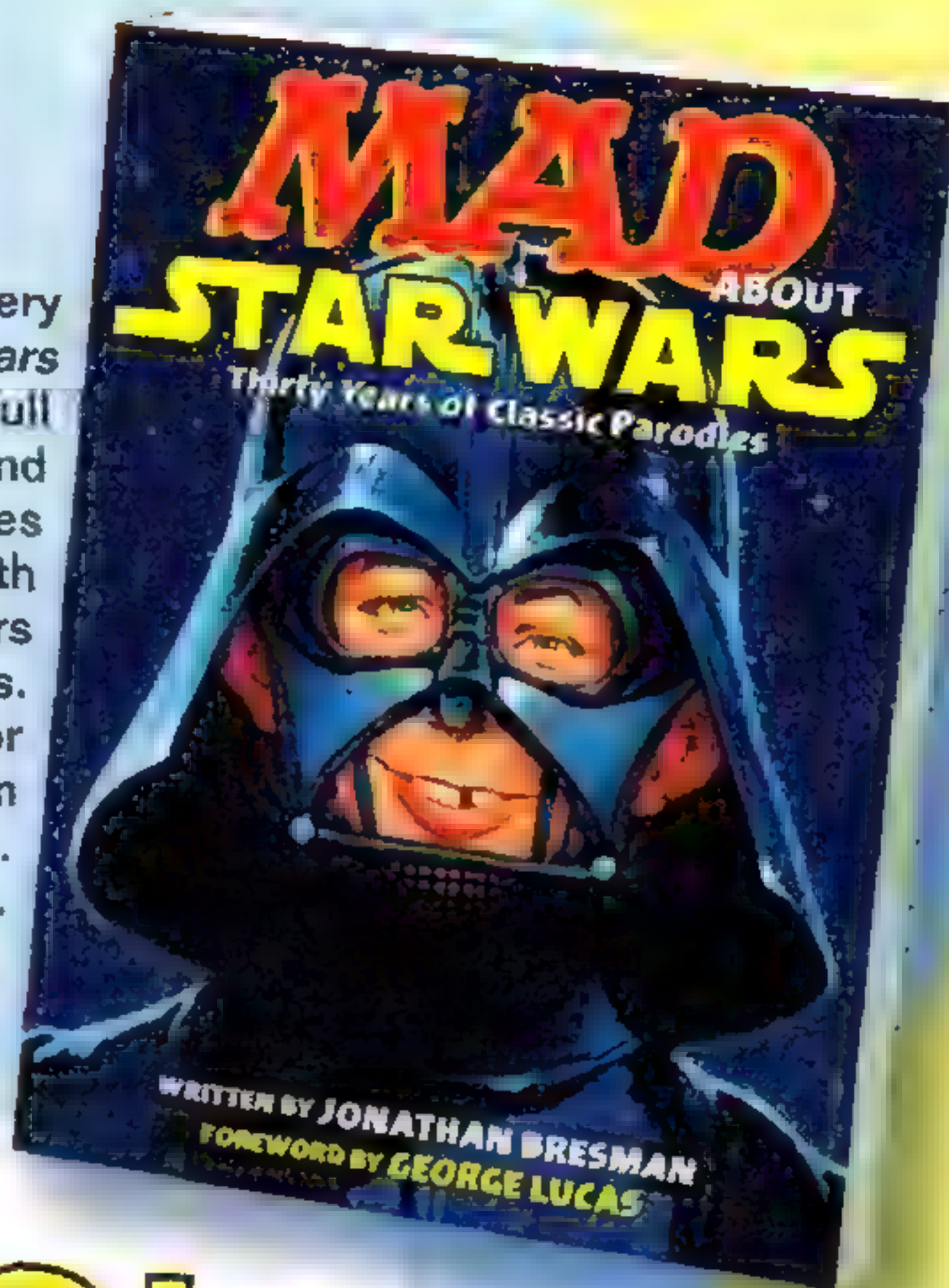
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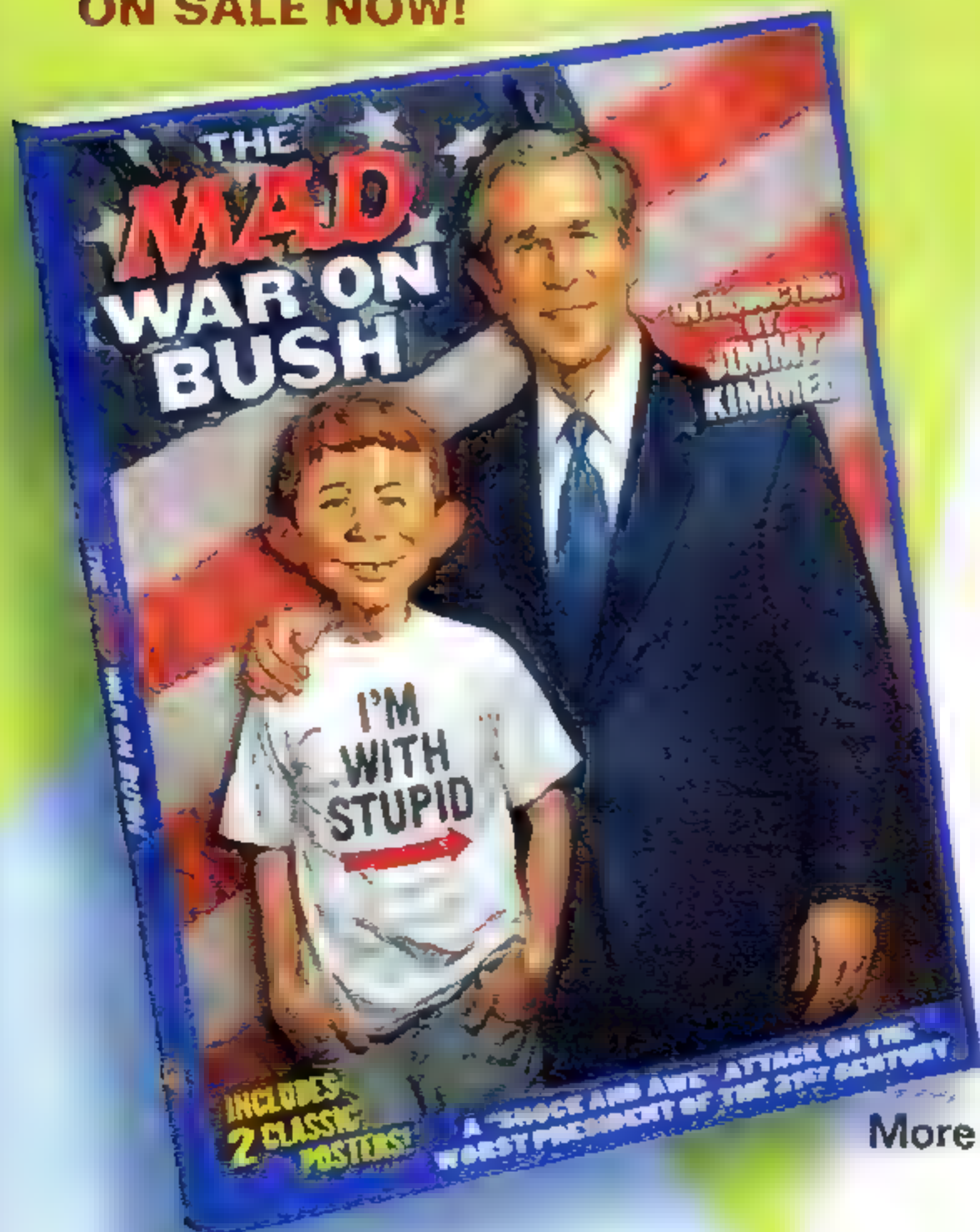
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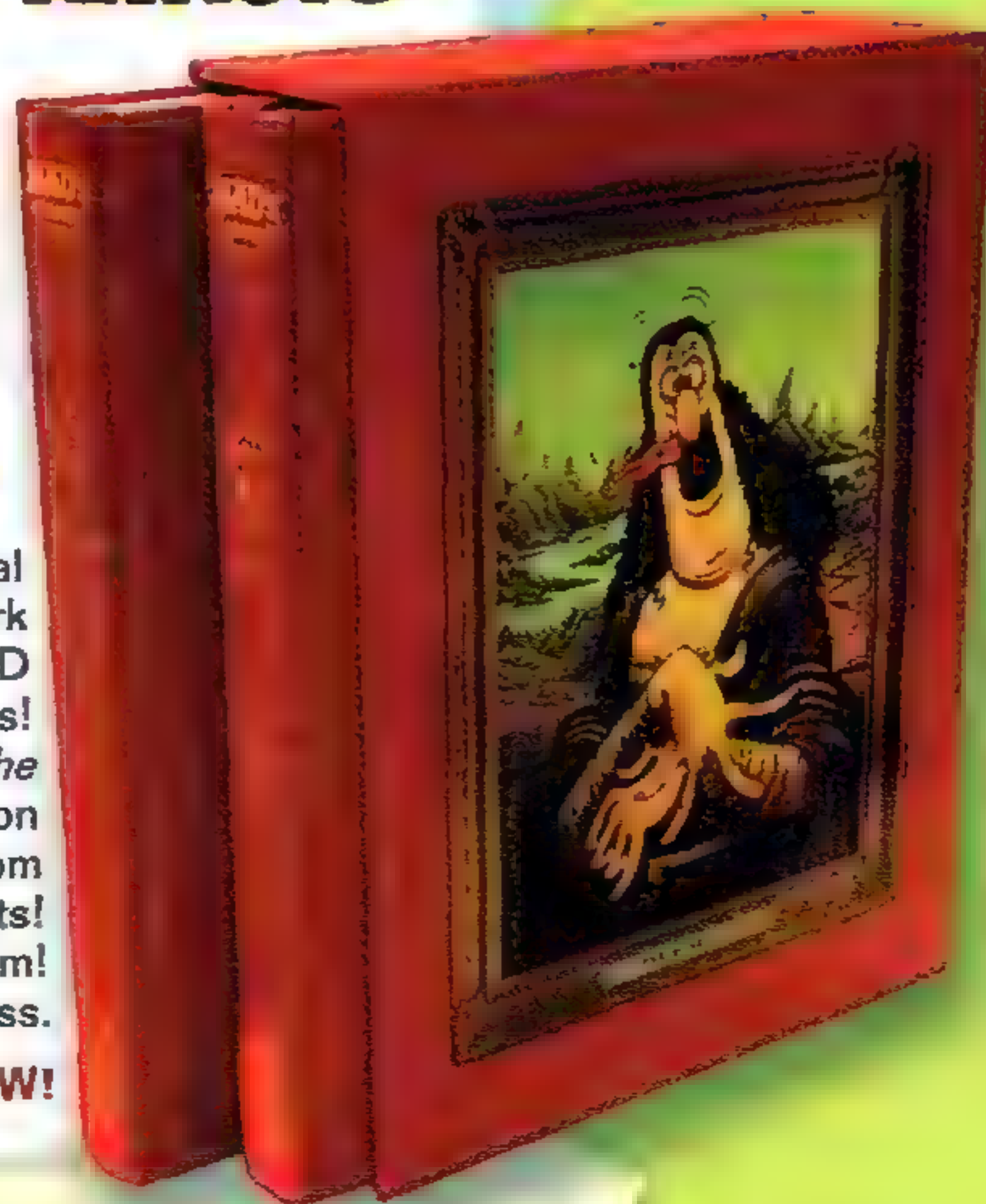
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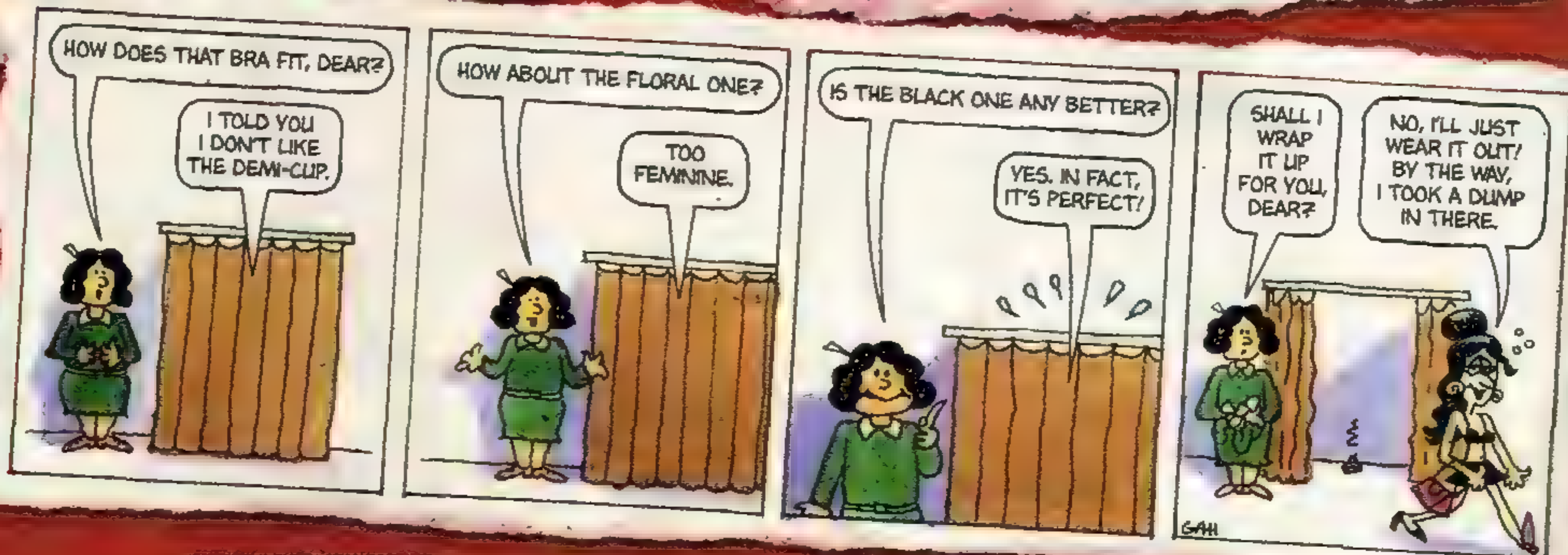
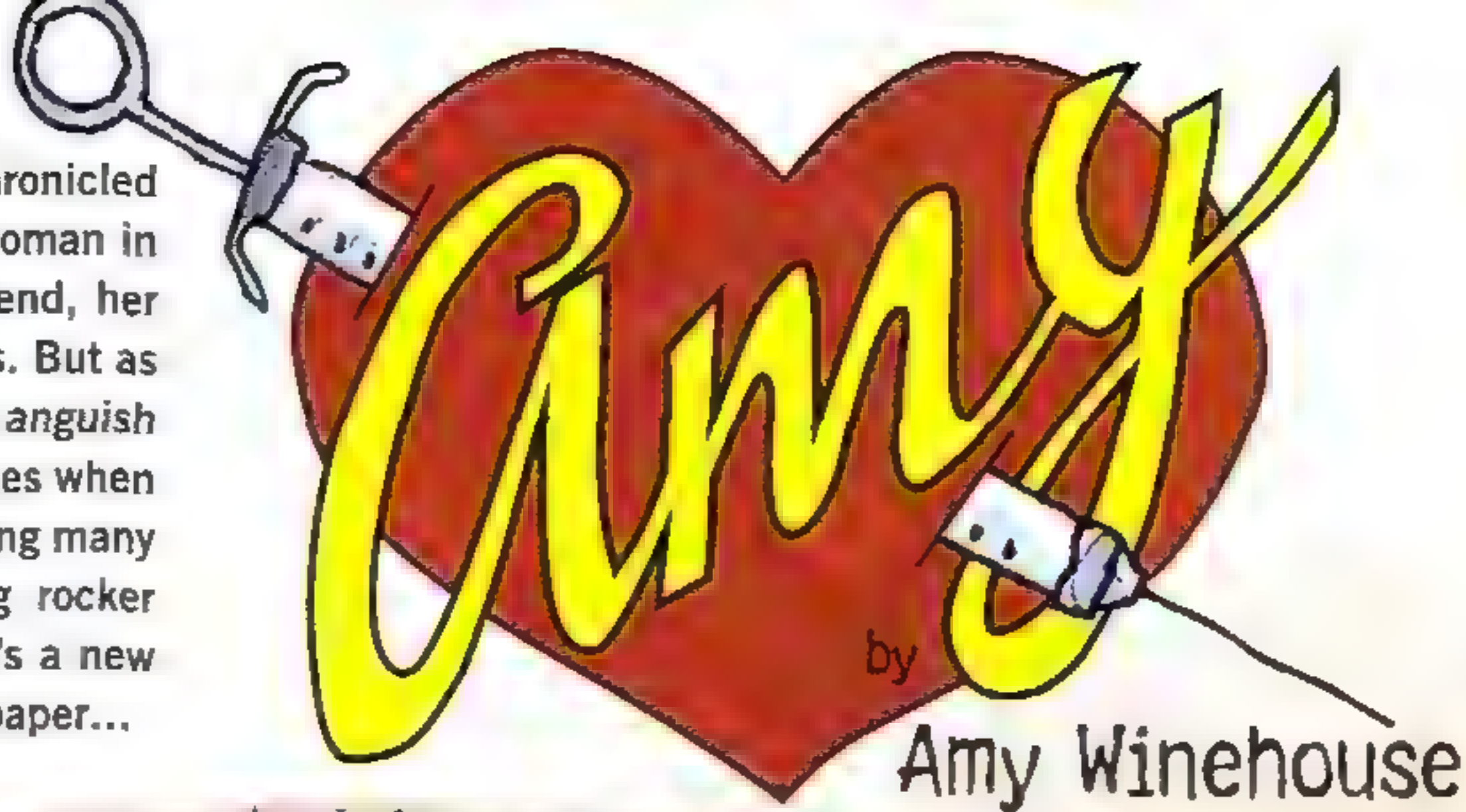
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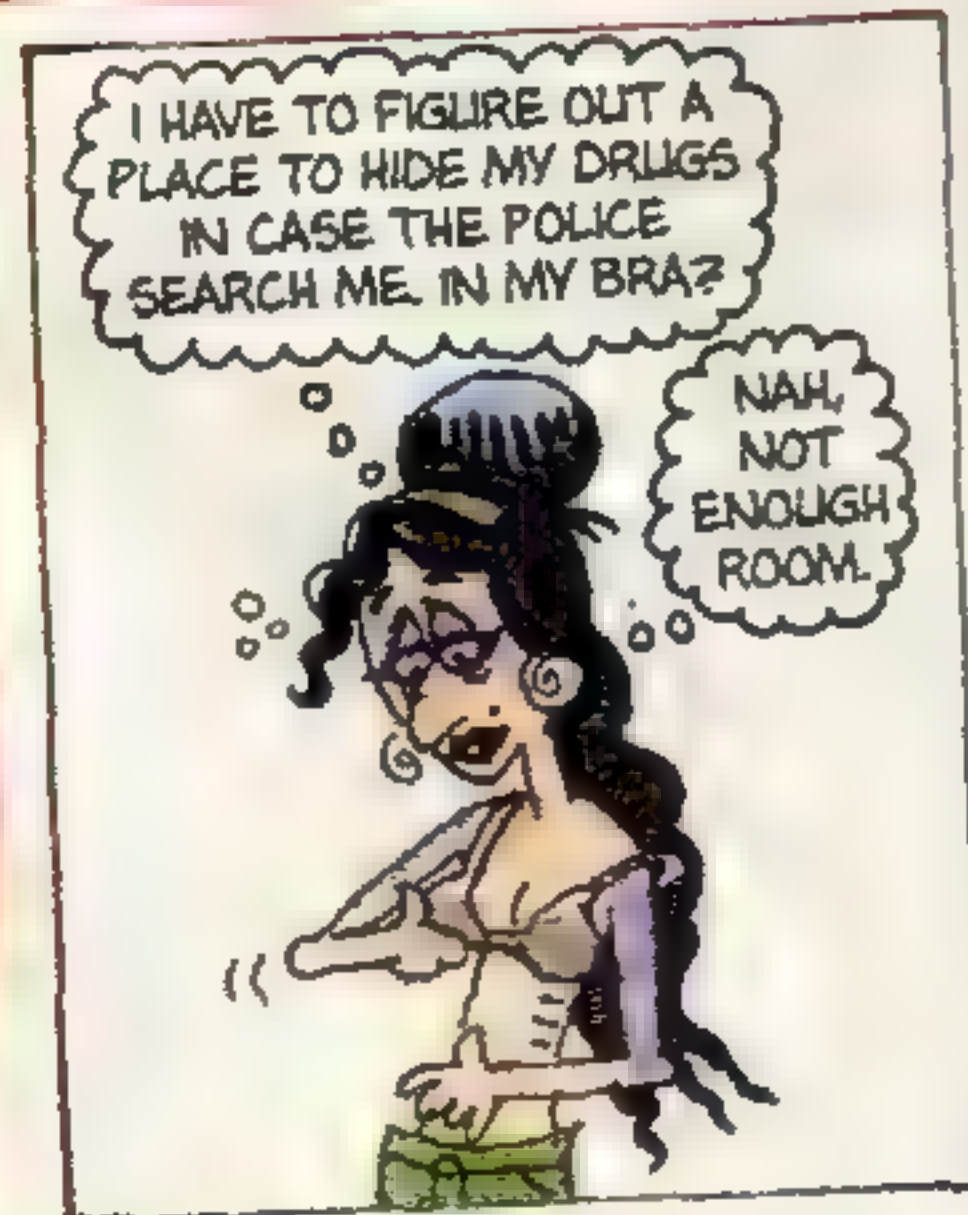
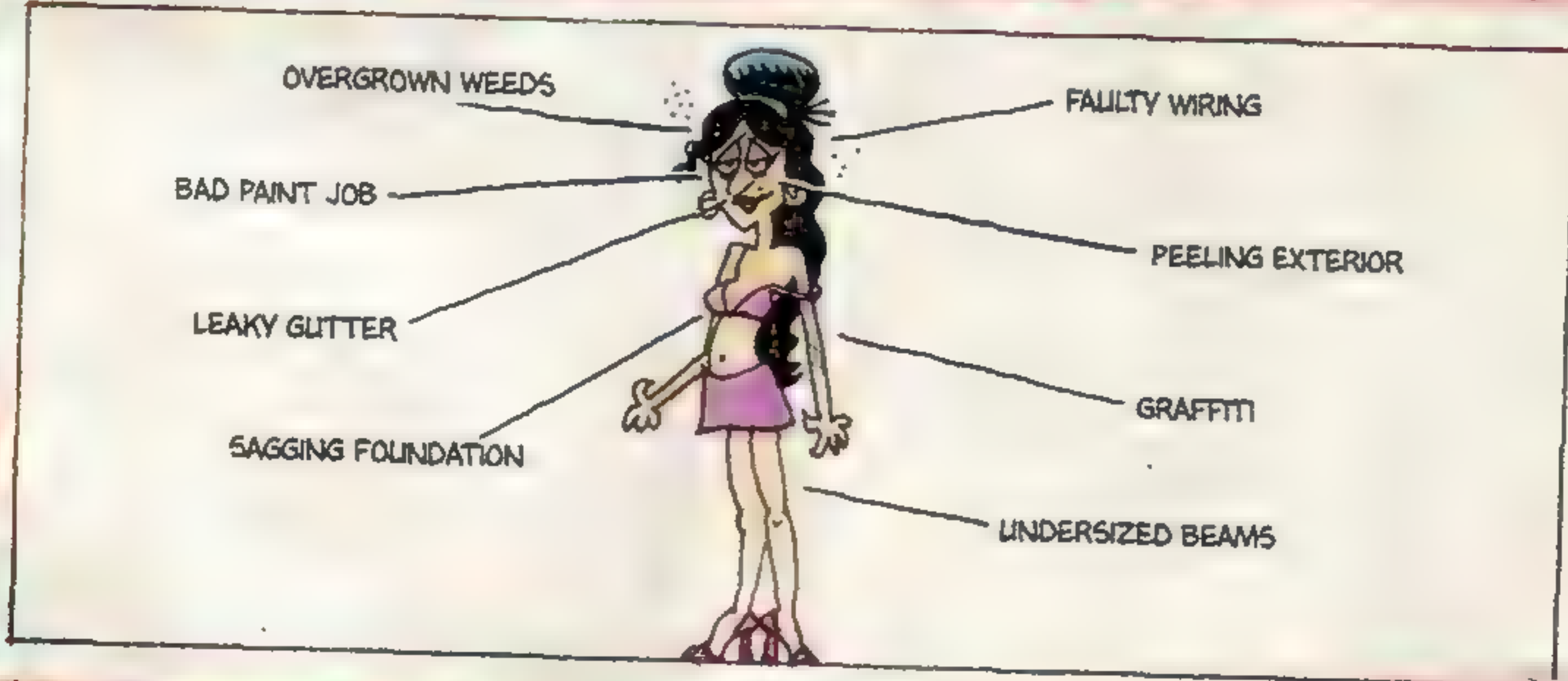
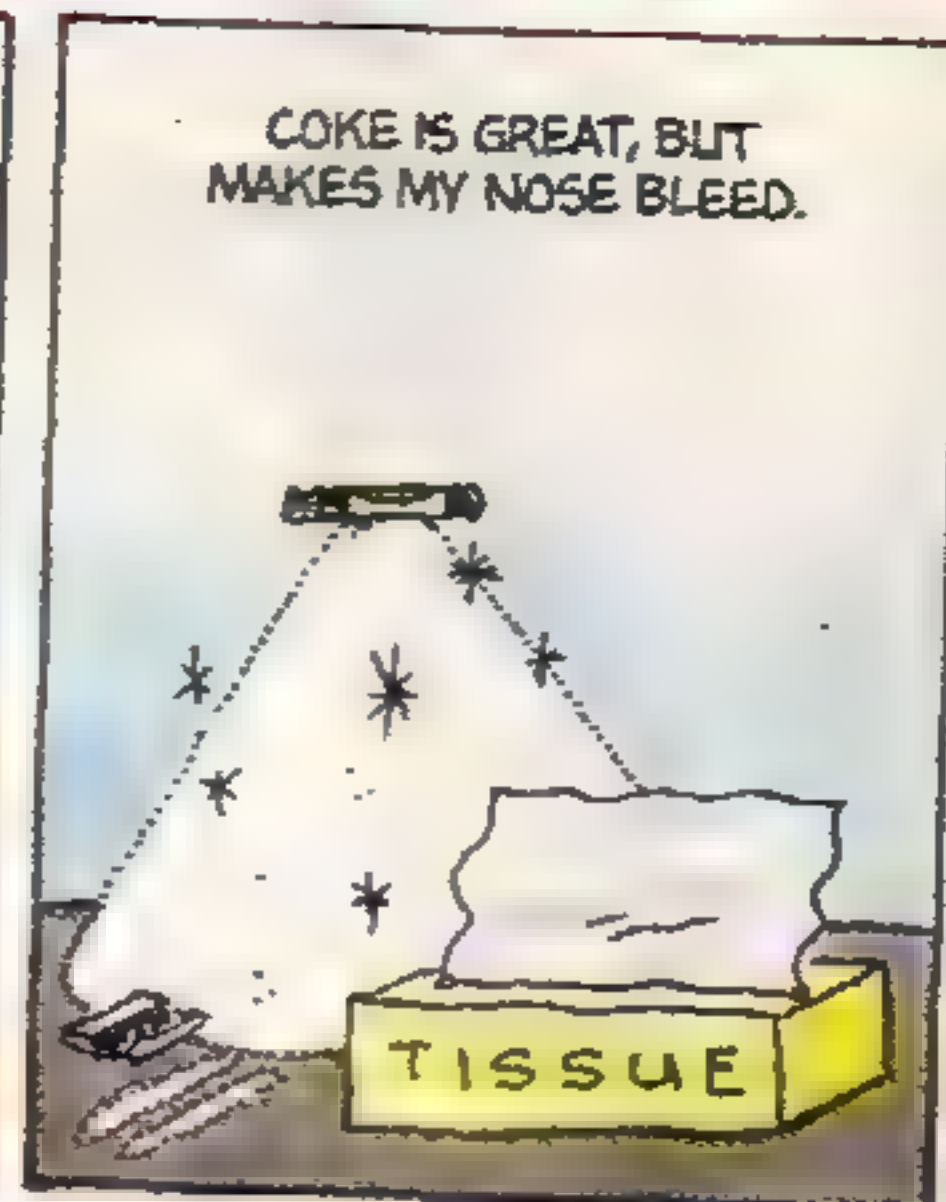


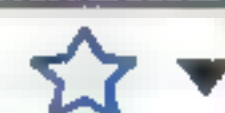


CRACK IS AACK! DEPT.

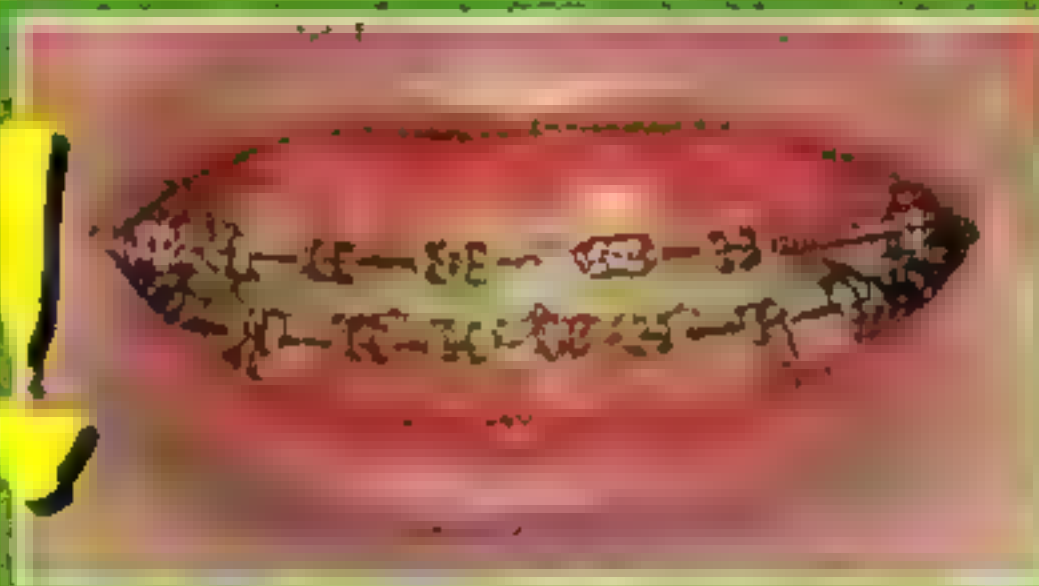
For years, cartoonist Cathy Guisewite has chronicled the trials and tribulations of Cathy, a young woman in constant conflict with her parents, her boyfriend, her shopping habits and her cottage cheese thighs. But as with most things, the world moves on and the anguish over whether to buy another pair of sandals pales when compared with some of the problems confronting many of today's young women. Mainly, one young rocker who, no, no, no, just won't go to rehab. Here's a new strip that won't be coming to your local newspaper...







Planet TAD!!!!



[About Me]

[Name|Tad]

[Age|176 months]

[Favorite planet|Uranus]

[3 August|01:19pm]

[mood| sympathetic]

Today on TV, I saw a guy say that a goldfish has a memory span of seven seconds. It made me feel kind of sorry for them, because I bet the only thing that ever goes through their mind is, "Oh my God, I'm drowning! No wait, I have gills. Oh my God, I'm drowning! No wait, I have gills. Oh my God, I'm drowning! No wait, I have gills."

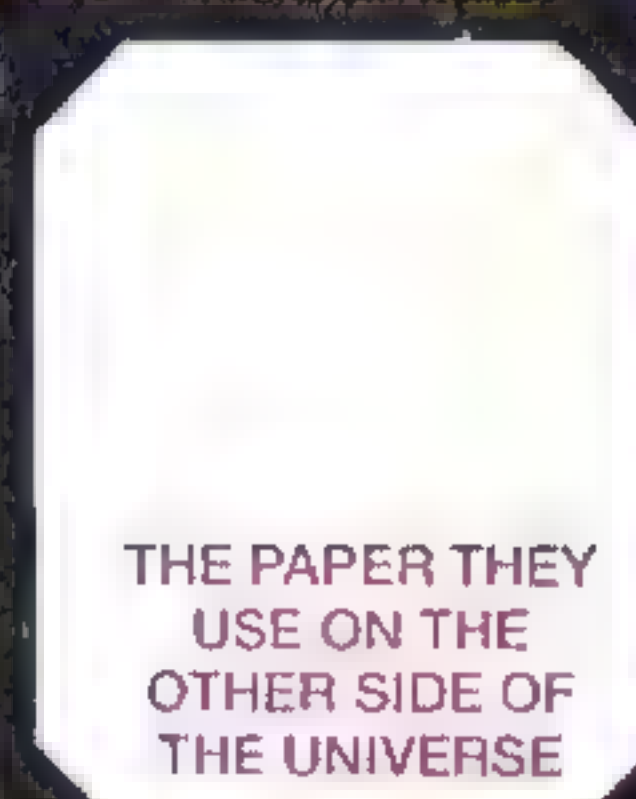
[7 August|06:47pm]

[mood| frakking awesome]

I've been watching a lot of *Battlestar Galactica* lately. If you've never seen it, *Battlestar Galactica* is about people from a planet millions of miles away from Earth, and they have pretty much the same clothes, language, appliances and expressions as we do. The only differences are that they use a made-up swear word that you can say on television, and the shape of the paper they use is different.

I wonder what that show's fan conventions are like. Does everyone just show up carrying around a piece of paper with the corners cut off, so that people know they're dressed up as characters from the show?

HOW TO TELL IF YOU'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE



[9 August|04:24pm]

[mood| excited]

Big news: Chuck and I were walking home from the movies this afternoon when this dog started following us home. Well, I guess it didn't start following us until after we got home, because I saw it in the car. Anyway, after we got home, the dog kept barking outside the house. At first, my mom said to leave it alone, and I did. But then it barked and barked and barked. But I just sat there, thinking, and my mom said to let it in, because it was really barking and barking. So I let it in. (Their book this month is *The Kite Runner*, although my mom didn't have time to read it, so she watched the movie last night. I was going to tell her that you don't need to watch the movie to pretend to read a book anymore — all you need to do is skim its Wikipedia page — but I figured that she probably doesn't need to know all my creepy secrets.)

Tomorrow, we're going to put up signs saying that we found the dog, to see if we can find its owner. But if we can't, my mom said maybe we can keep it. I might have a dog! Here's a picture:



His name is Rex.
It's short for
Dogasaurus Rex.

[09 August|11:19pm]

[mood| tired]

Here is the first thing I have learned about having a dog in your house: Don't feed them nachos. Not ever.

[11 August|03:41pm]

[mood| tireder]

So, starting yesterday, my dad and I have been going to stores and putting up signs with a picture of Rex on it. I really hope nobody calls. (I tried leaving one digit off our phone number, but my dad noticed.)

[13 August|05:22pm]

[mood| nauseated]

Out of all the product mascots, I think the one that weirds me out the most is the Hamburger Helper Severed *With a Face On It*. I think most people, if that showed up in their kitchen and offered to help make dinner, would beat it to death with a cast-iron skillet.



[15 August|04:33pm]

[mood| hopeful]

Well, it's been six days, and nobody's called to claim Rex. I think my parents are growing to like him, too. My mom keeps telling me not to get too attached to him, but then, like, five minutes later, she'll be rubbing his belly and saying, "Who's a good dog? Who's a good dog? Is it you? Is it you? Are you a good dog?" I don't get why people do that to dogs. Every time she does it, I can't help but think how freaked out she'd be if Rex looked up and said, "Yes, I am a good dog. Thank you for asking."

[23 August|12:05pm]

[mood| jubilant]

Great news! Rex has been with us for two weeks now, and nobody's claimed him, so my parents said we're gonna keep him! They took him to the vet today, and the vet said he's healthy, he just needs to be fixed. (Sophie asked what "fixed" means. My mom said it means a dog needs to be repaired. I said, "Yeah, repaired by cutting off his —", and then my mom said, "If you finish that sentence, I'm taking away your Wii for a month." And I said, "That's exactly what's happening to Rex. They're taking away his Wii." And then my mom took away my Wii for two months.)

[24 August|01:26pm]

[mood| amused]

Well, Rex is back from the vet's. I think he can tell how stupid he looks with this cone on:

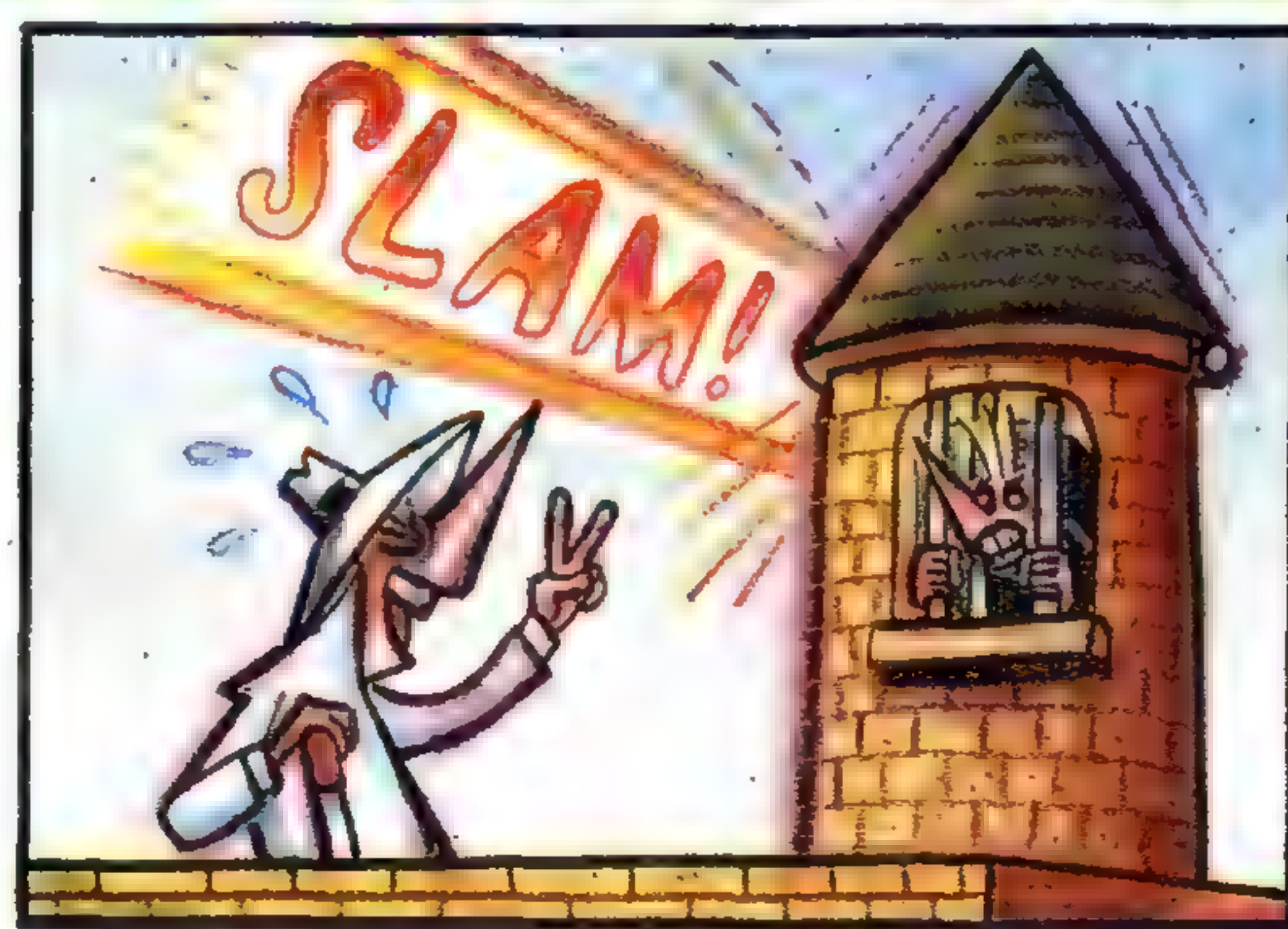
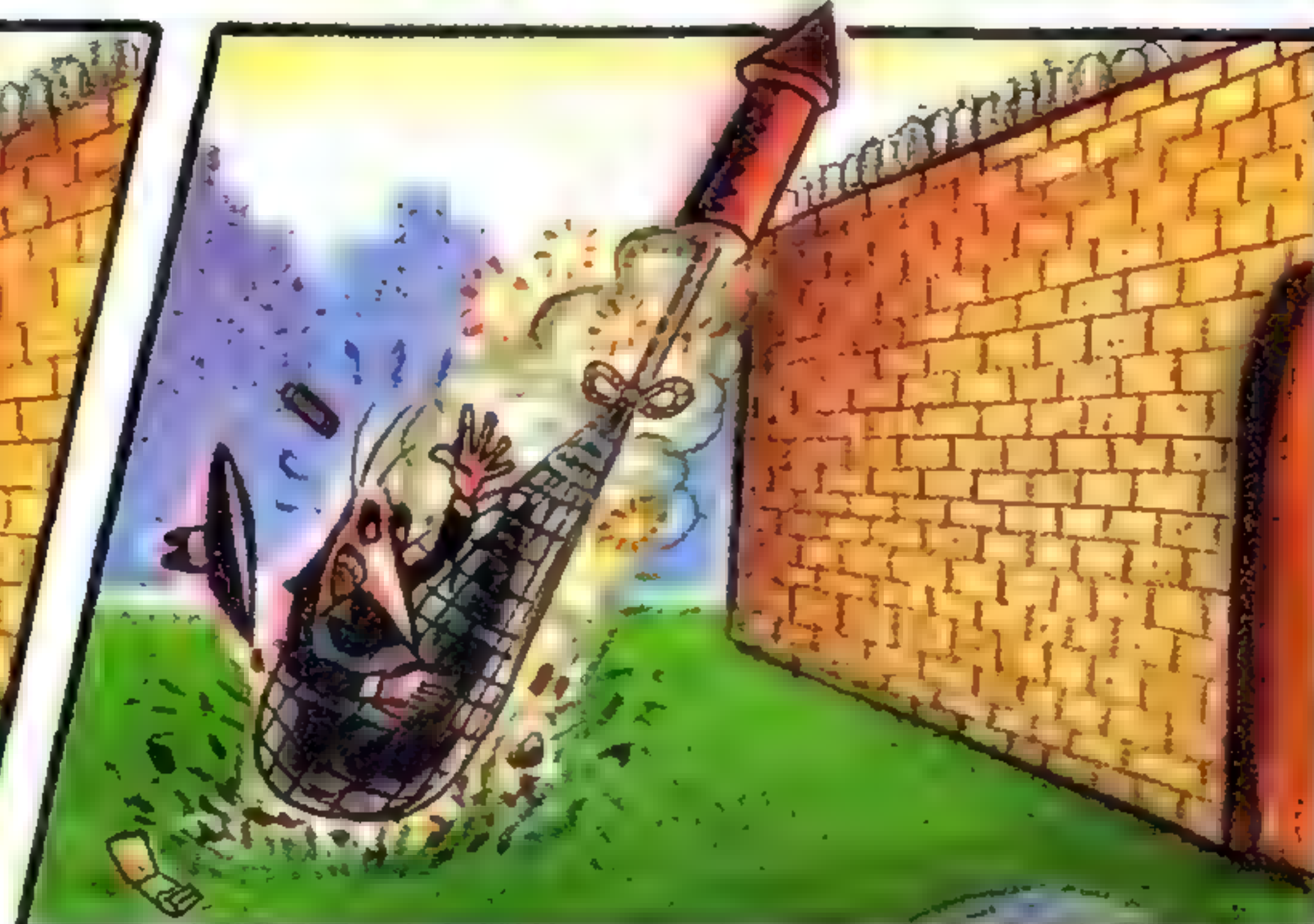
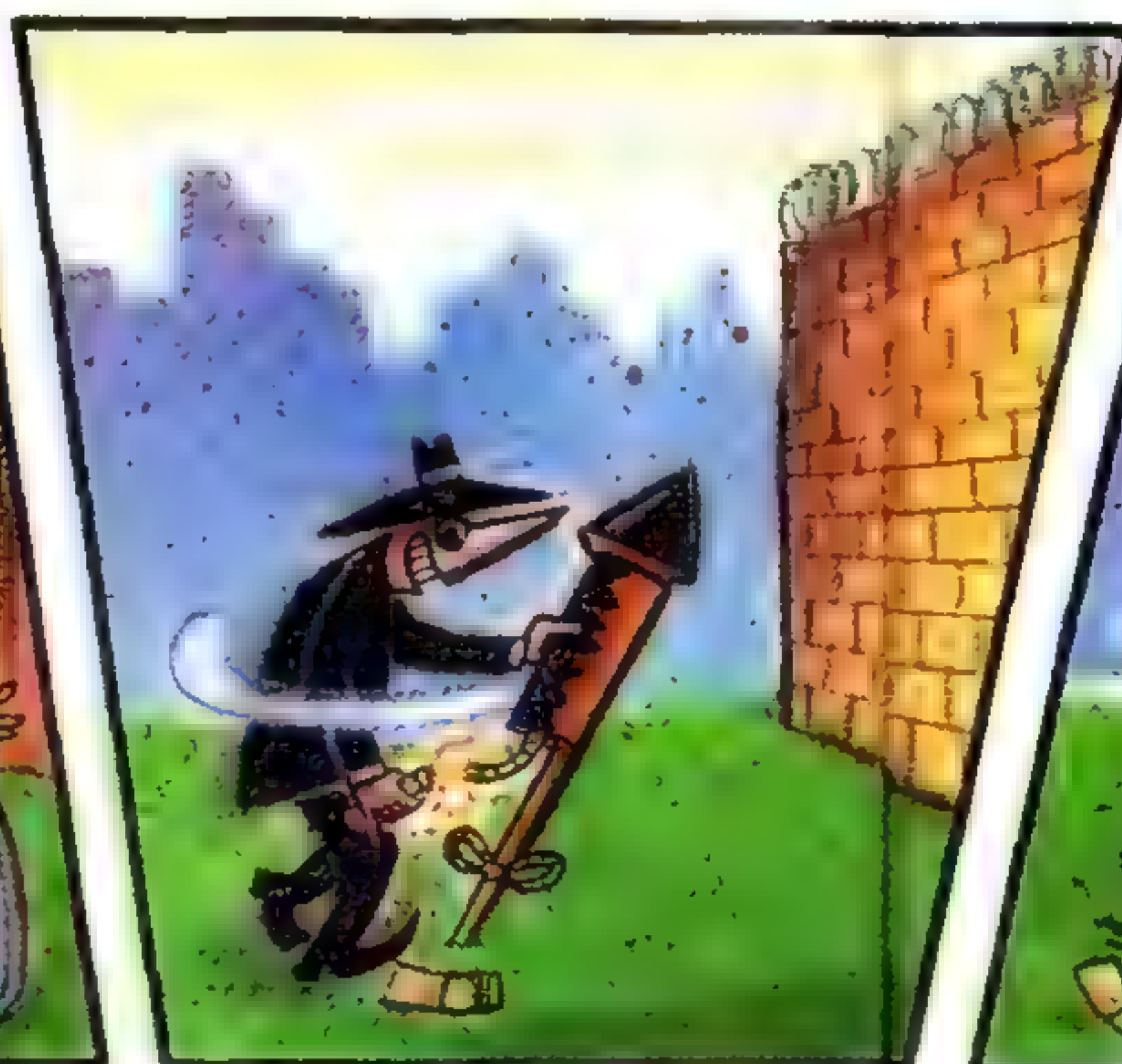
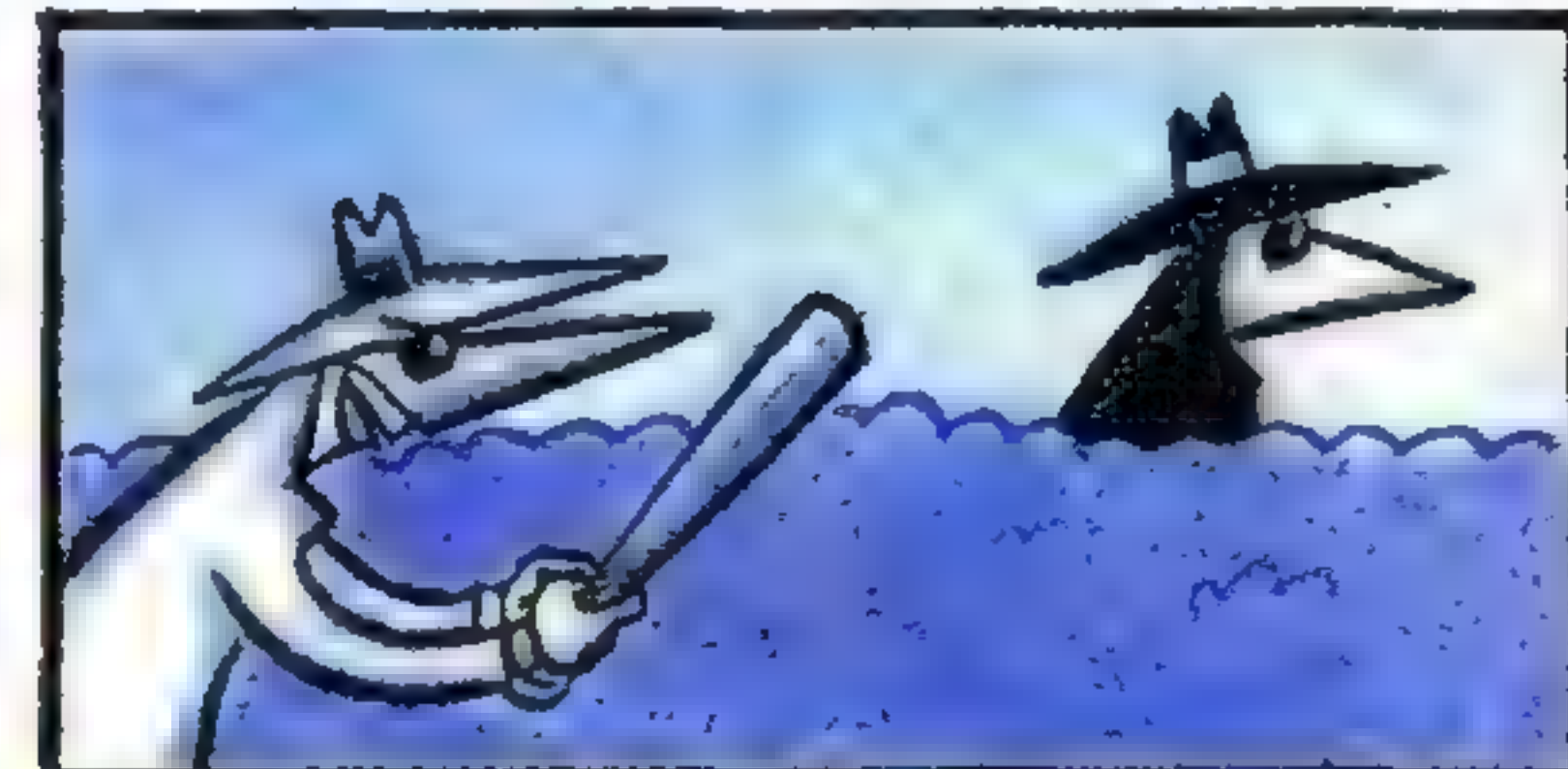


Sophie asked why he has to wear the cone. I told her it was so his head didn't fall off.

[30 August|02:35pm]

[mood| doggone sad]

Ugh. Bad news. We got a call today. Turns out, Rex has an owner. Also, his name isn't Rex. It's Mr. Kensington. I guess his owners were off on a cruise for the last three weeks, and their dogsitter didn't want to ruin their vacation, so she didn't call to tell them he was missing. The owners were super-grateful — apparently, Rex is a purebred Jack Russell Terrier, and he's, like, won prizes at dog shows. They said it was a good thing we found him, because they're planning on making a lot of money by breeding him. My parents just kind of looked at each other, and then my mom said, "Good luck with that."

[illegible]

KUPER

WRITER AND ARTIST: PETER KUPER



IN STORES THIS WEEK!



14

CHART-STOPPING HITS YOU'D SWEAR YOU HEARD ON OUR PREVIOUS 28 COLLECTIONS!

FEATURING THESE JAMS:

- 1 Song that only became a "hit" because it was offered as a free download on Verizon Wireless
- 2 Song with a 15-second attention-grabbing hook that sounds great in the iPod commercial where people flail around like they're being attacked by bees, but absolutely blows when heard in its entirety
- 3 Painful dreck from an *American Idol* also-ran
- 4 Cover song by band who couldn't get a hit with their own lousy material, so they cashed in by recording an inferior version of this classic old number
- 5 Song from Nu-Metal, Crunk, or whatever creatively named/spelled "subgenre" is taking the music world by storm this week
- 6 Gimmicky, forced duet by two artists who wouldn't be caught dead together, with vocals recorded separately on different coasts five months apart
- 7 Attempt at a mainstream hit by Christian soft-rock band that fence-straddles with lyrics about "being lifted higher" and "letting the light shine," which could be referring to falling in love with a girl, eternal salvation or changing a lightbulb
- 8 Remixed version of popular song rendered unrecognizable, buried under a cacophony of vinyl scratches, beat samples and drum loops by flavor-of-the-month Eurotrash DJ
- 9 Song nobody listened to three months ago that suddenly became all the rage when a moronic video of the band dancing to it was posted on YouTube
- 10 A music legend's new song that is easily the worst thing they've ever recorded, but which won a Grammy as an apology for being snubbed the past 40 years
- 11 Track consisting mostly of obvious, embarrassing double entendres and suggestive but laughable moaning by prepubescent pop diva trying to shed her squeaky-clean image
- 12 The once-catchy, now merely irritating song from that overplayed Mitsubishi commercial
- 13 The latest humptybootythongdogs-style novelty rap song whose novelty wore off after hearing it twice, but we'll be subjected to ad nauseam at every sporting event this year
- 14 Latest song from the interchangeable pool of female vocalists with single, not-found-in-any-baby-naming-book monikers like Forsythia, Corian or Propecia

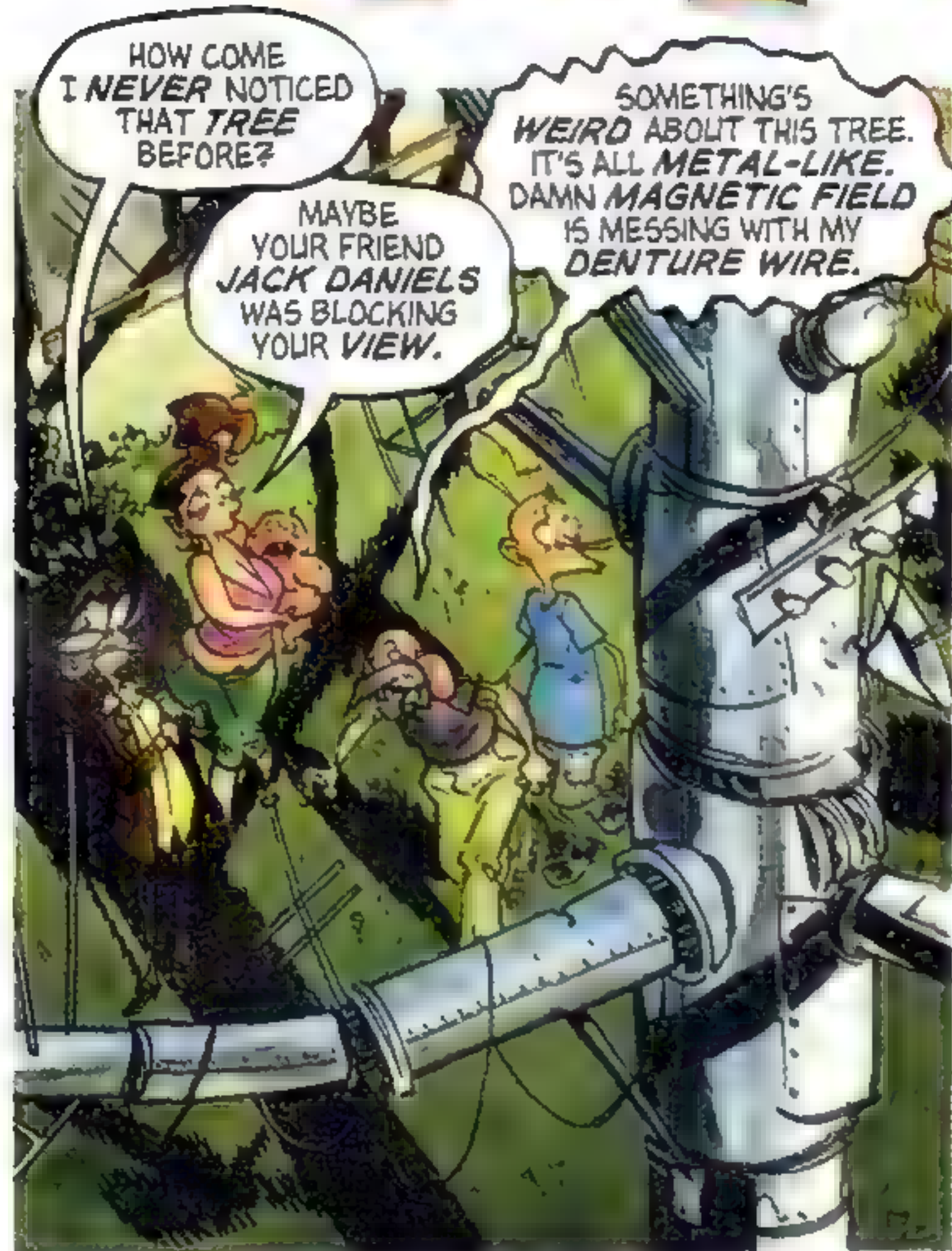
WRITER: DARREN JOHNSON

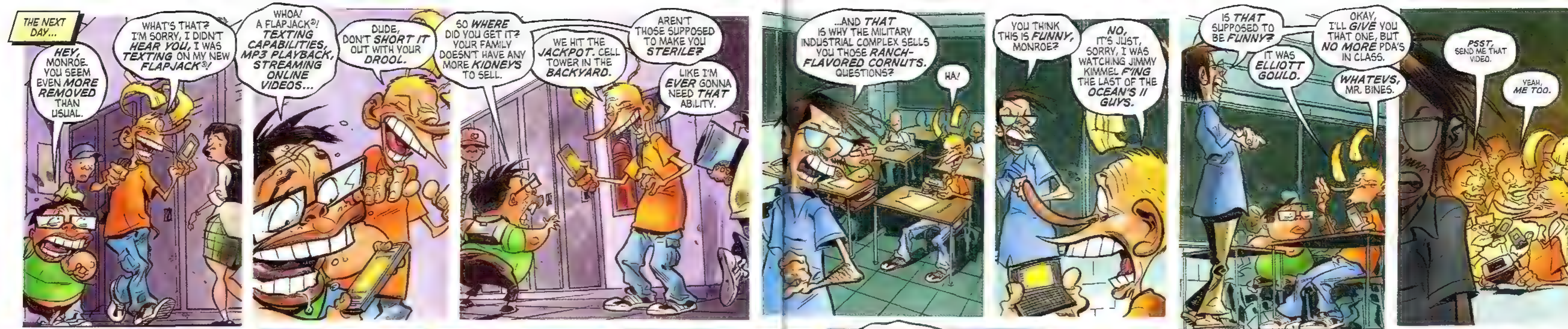
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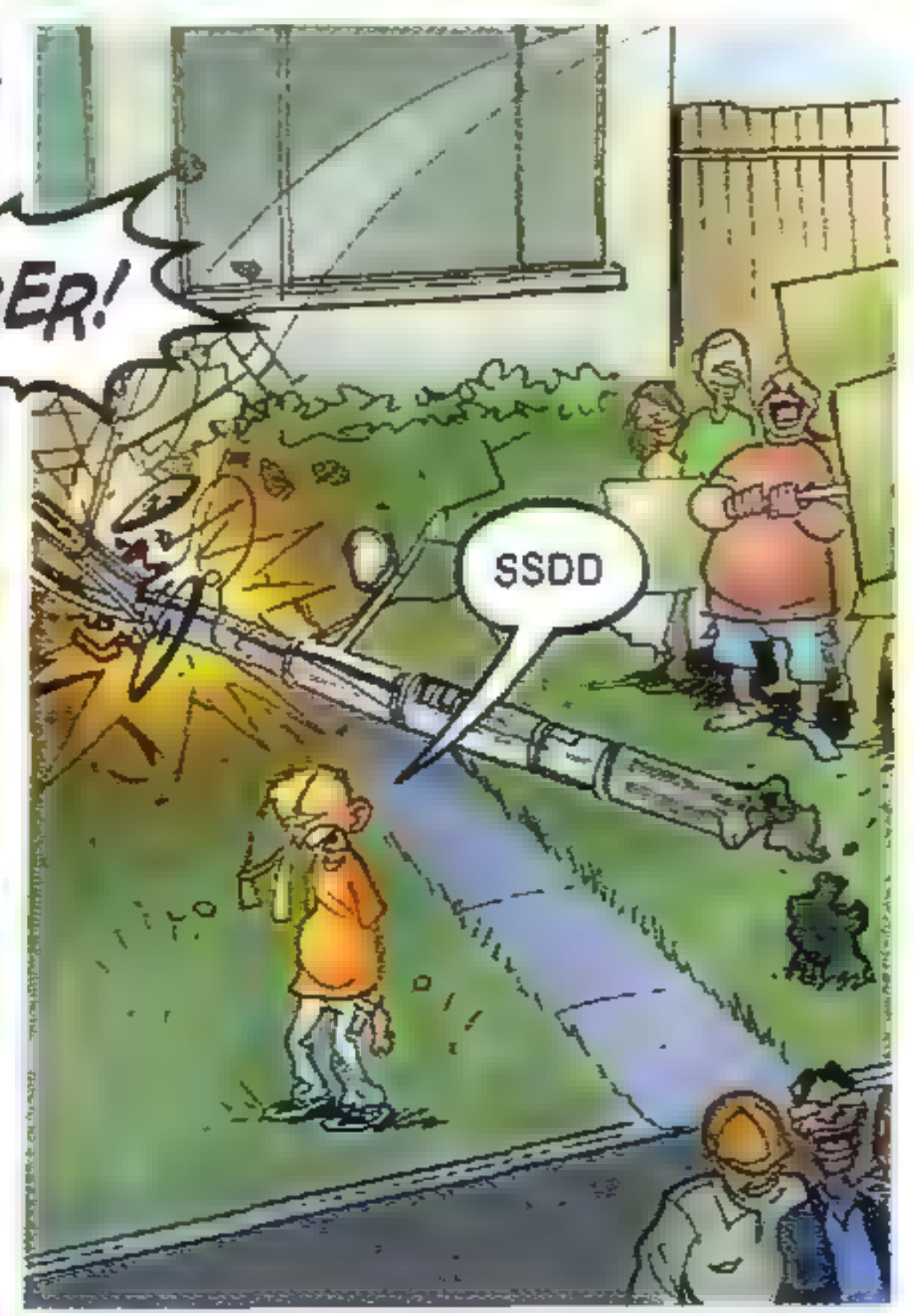
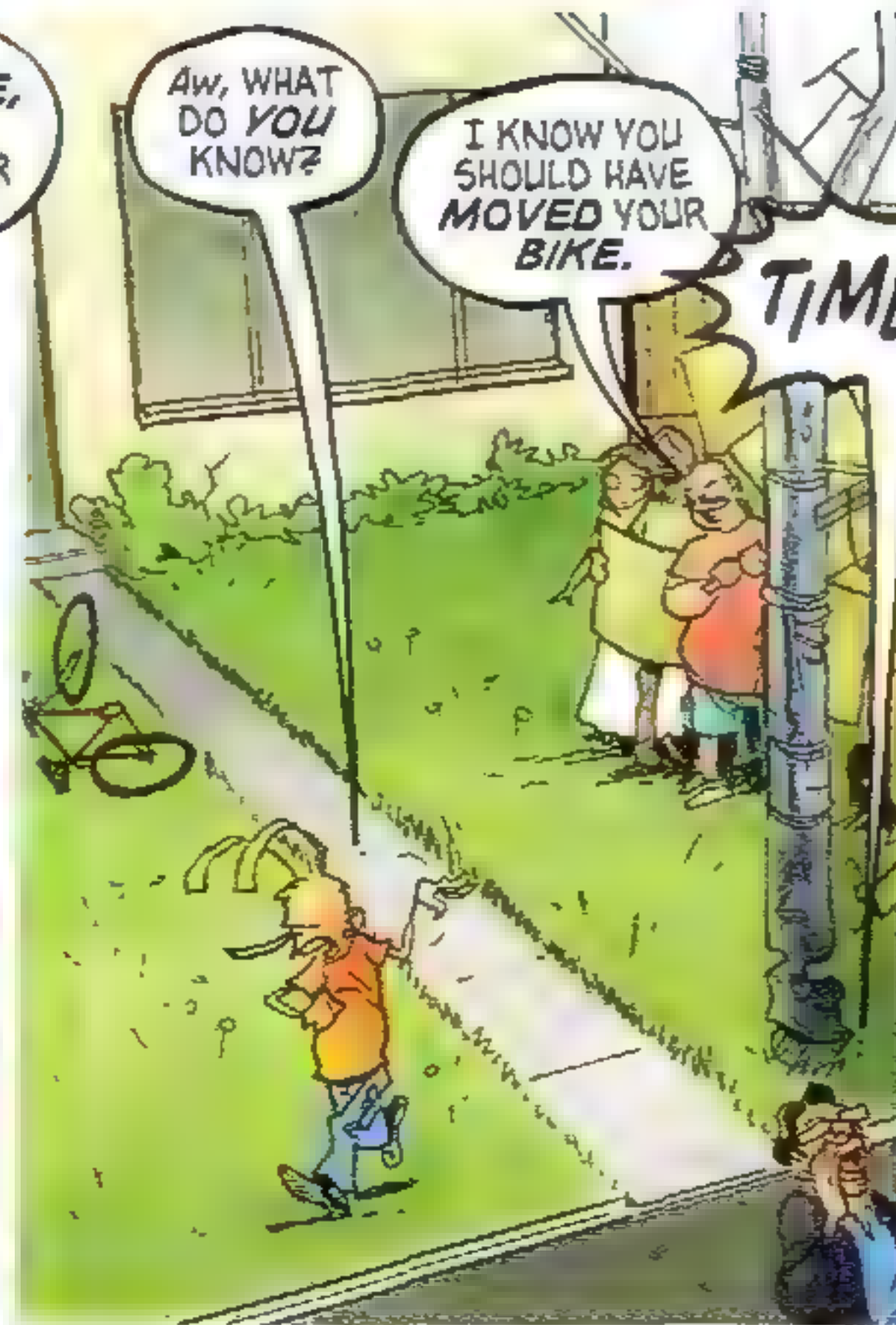
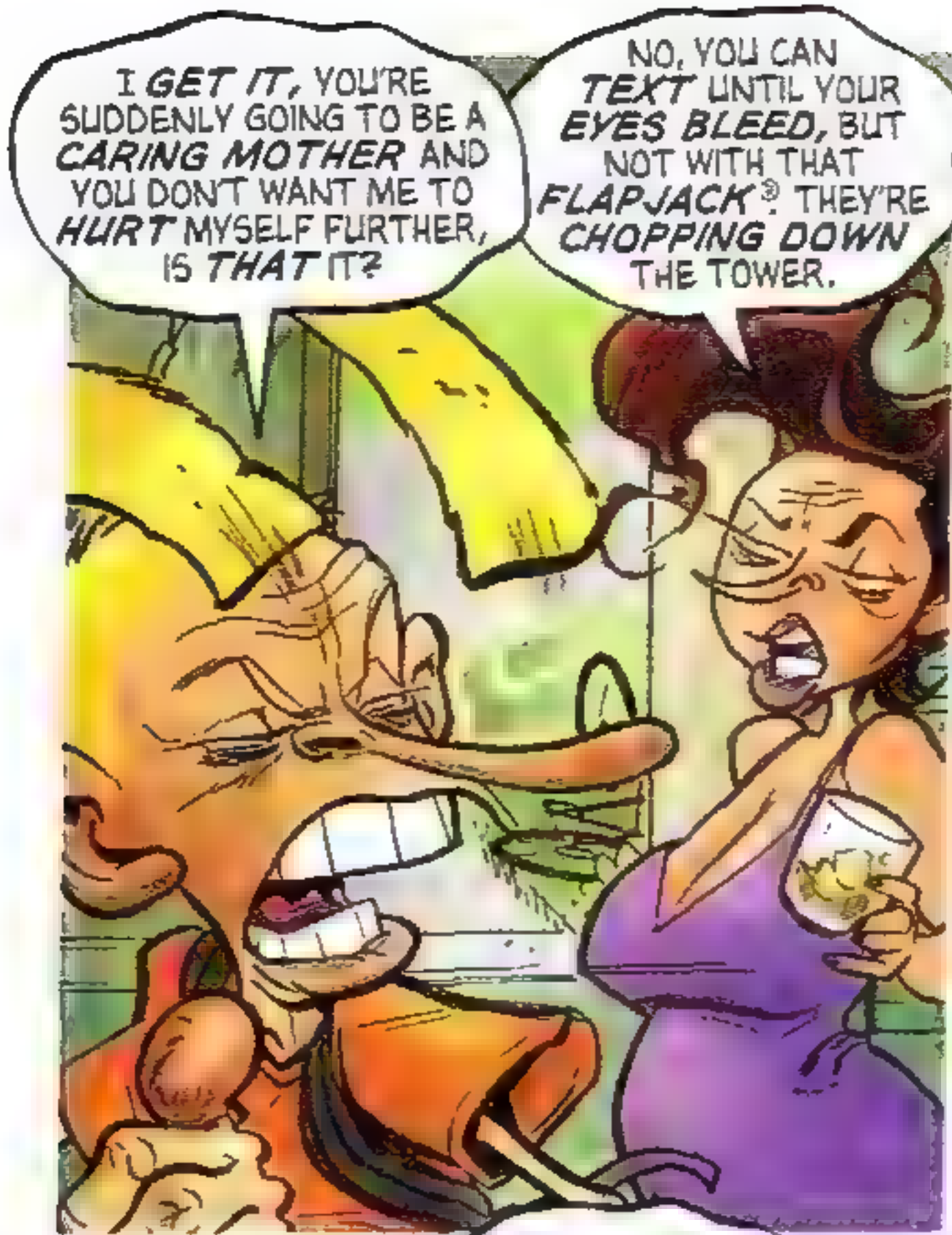


Don't mess
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It's...

MONROE and... the New Phone







An important message from MAD's Director of Business & Development,

**JEFFREY
LOZENGE**



If scientists are right that Pluto isn't a planet but a "dwarf planet," then how come it has no dwarfs? And if it's true that there's no life on Mars, how then do we account for Martians? The universe is truly a mysterious place and by "mysterious" I mean confusing and by "confusing" I mean, "For God's sake, where's the bathroom?"

It is one of the great tragedies of interplanetary space travel that astronauts are expected to pee in their own suits. Personally, I refuse, which brings me to MAD — yes, MAD — the magazine whose time is and was and continues to be — which is read by a new breed of dignified space pioneers who insist on the privacy of their own urinal. It is these brave men and women (and dwarfs) who truly dare to go where no man or woman (or dwarf) has gone before.

Which brings me to MAD again — yes, MAD — an earthly magazine whose influence might one day span the galaxies and reach afar to worlds unknown, such as Ornus, Zimbo and Peckster 12. Or maybe not.

Like I said, the universe is mysterious. But you should subscribe to MAD anyway.

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Key Code: A08FIL



Times are tough all over. The economy's in the toilet, unemployment is out of control and inflation is blowin' up! It seems like every business is dying... including, ironically, funeral homes! Which makes us wonder, what will happen...

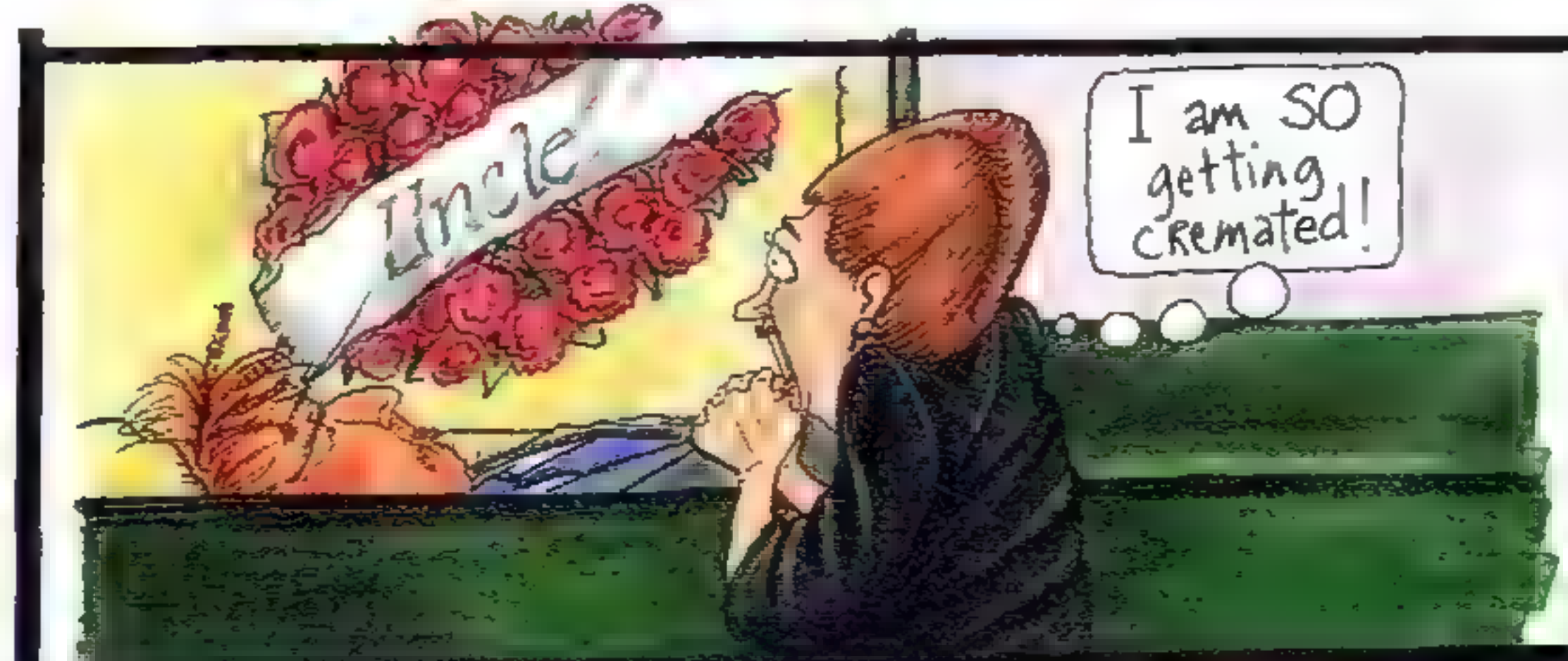
WHEN

THE RECESSION HITS FUNERAL HOMES

WRITER AND ARTIST: TERESA BURNS PARKHURST



The use of illegal, inexperienced non-union labor makes itself disgracefully evident.



Professional cadaver cosmetologists are replaced by the cheap labor of Beauty School undergrads.



I am so very- **GASP!**- sorry for your loss.

Skimping on embalming fluid makes for very stinky grieving.



Cremation services grow **primitive**.



Dammit! I knew "oak" wasn't spelled "O-H-K"! And that casket smelled exactly like popsicle sticks! OH GAWD!! They stole Uncle Sid's shoes!!!

Substandard materials are passed off as high quality.

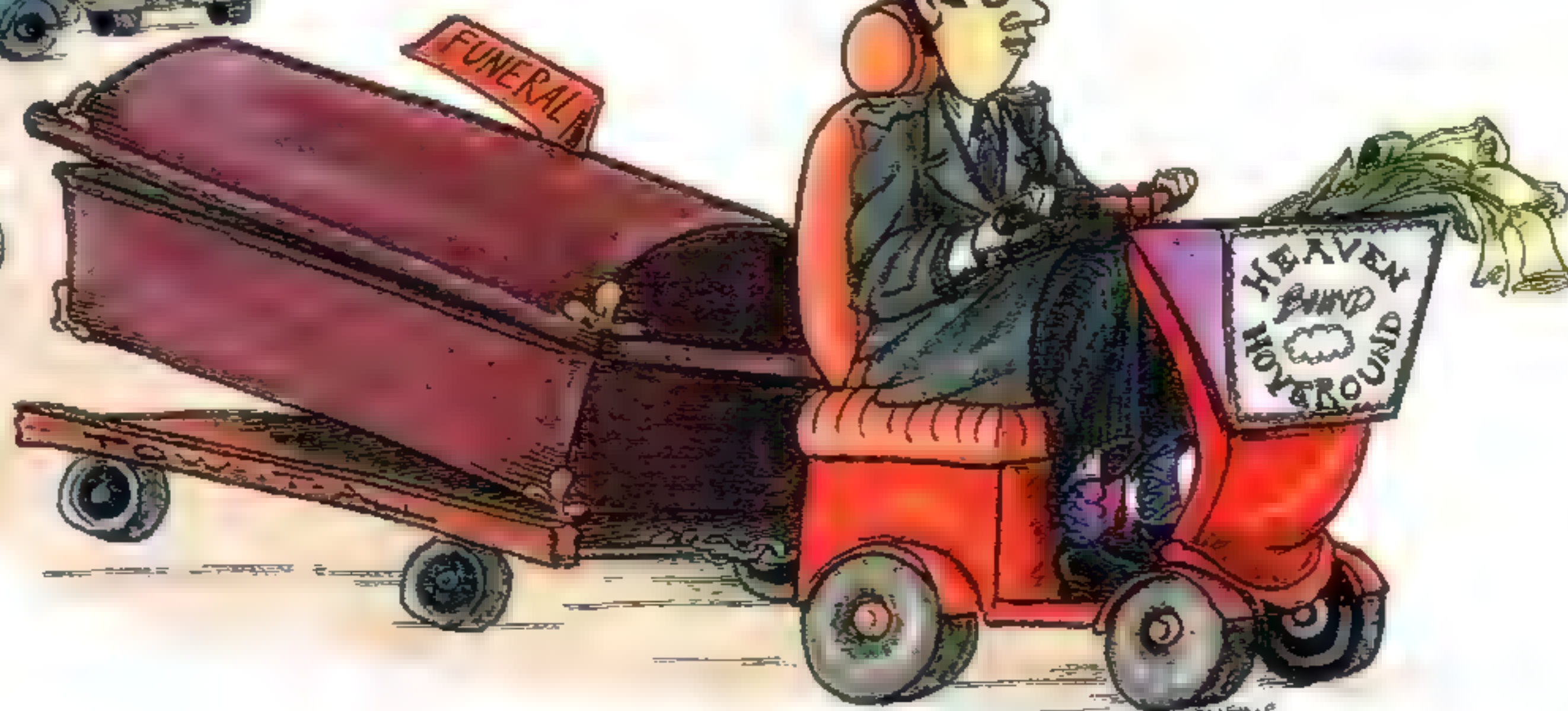
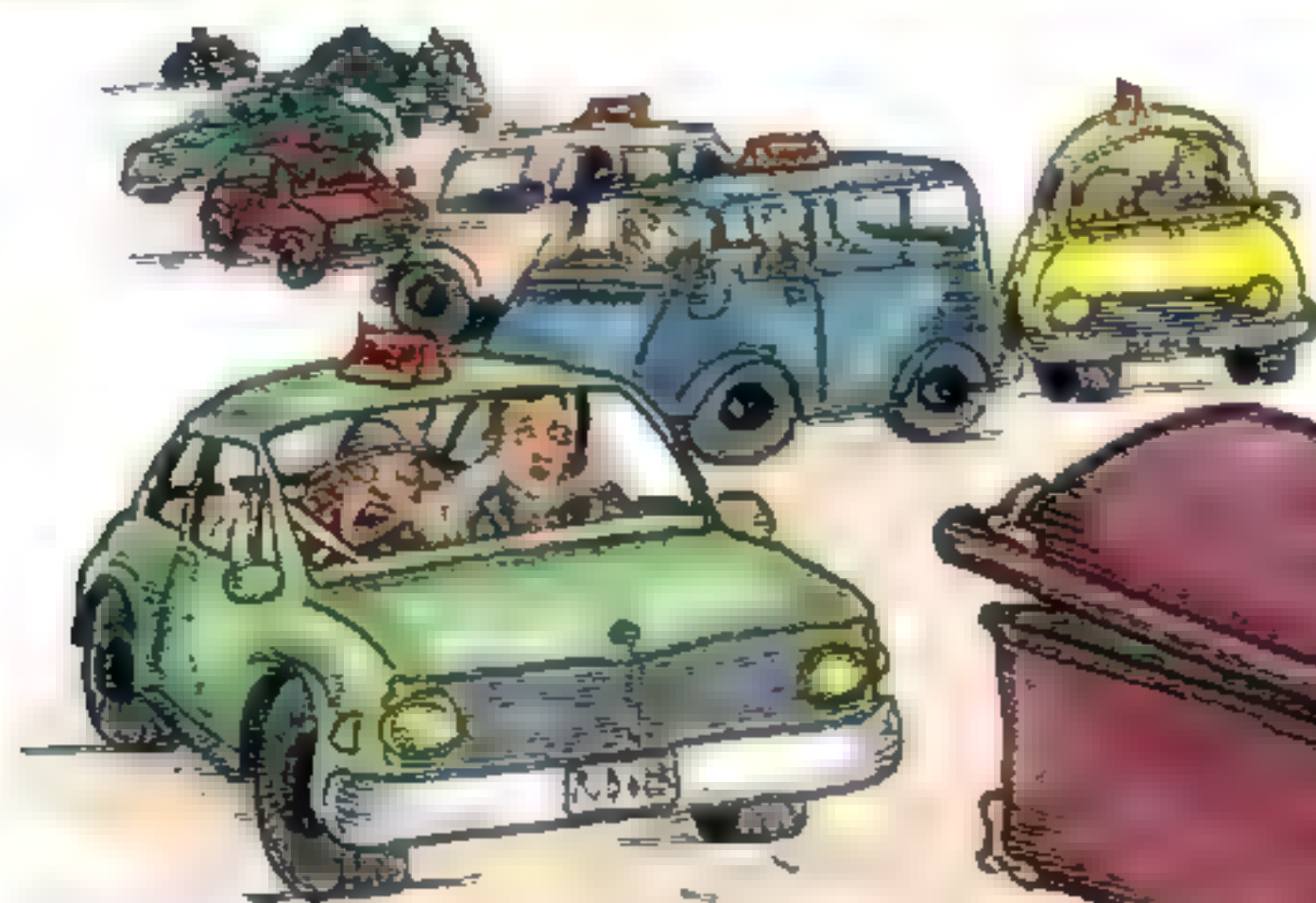


You shut it.

I'm not shutting it, You shut it.

I sure as hell ain't shutting it. Let's go see if there's some kids outside that want to earn a buck.

Working with a **skeleton crew**, bereaved families are often left to figure things out for themselves.



Gas-guzzling hearses are sacrificed for more fuel-efficient, but **undignified, alternatives**.



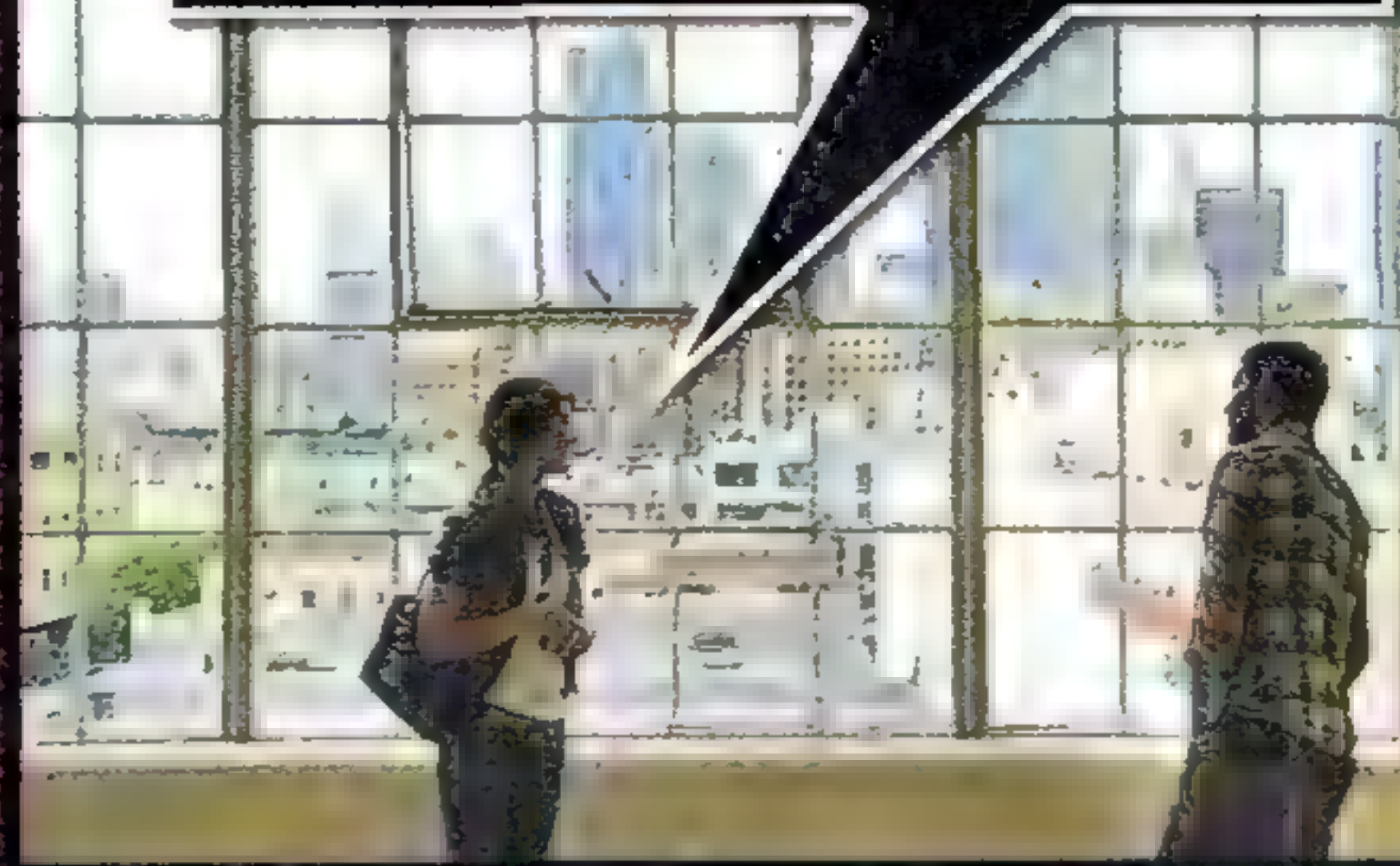
LAUREN ORDER DEPT.

MAD *Heads for*

Making it
on my own
in the big city
is so hard —
at least that's what
the producers
tell me.



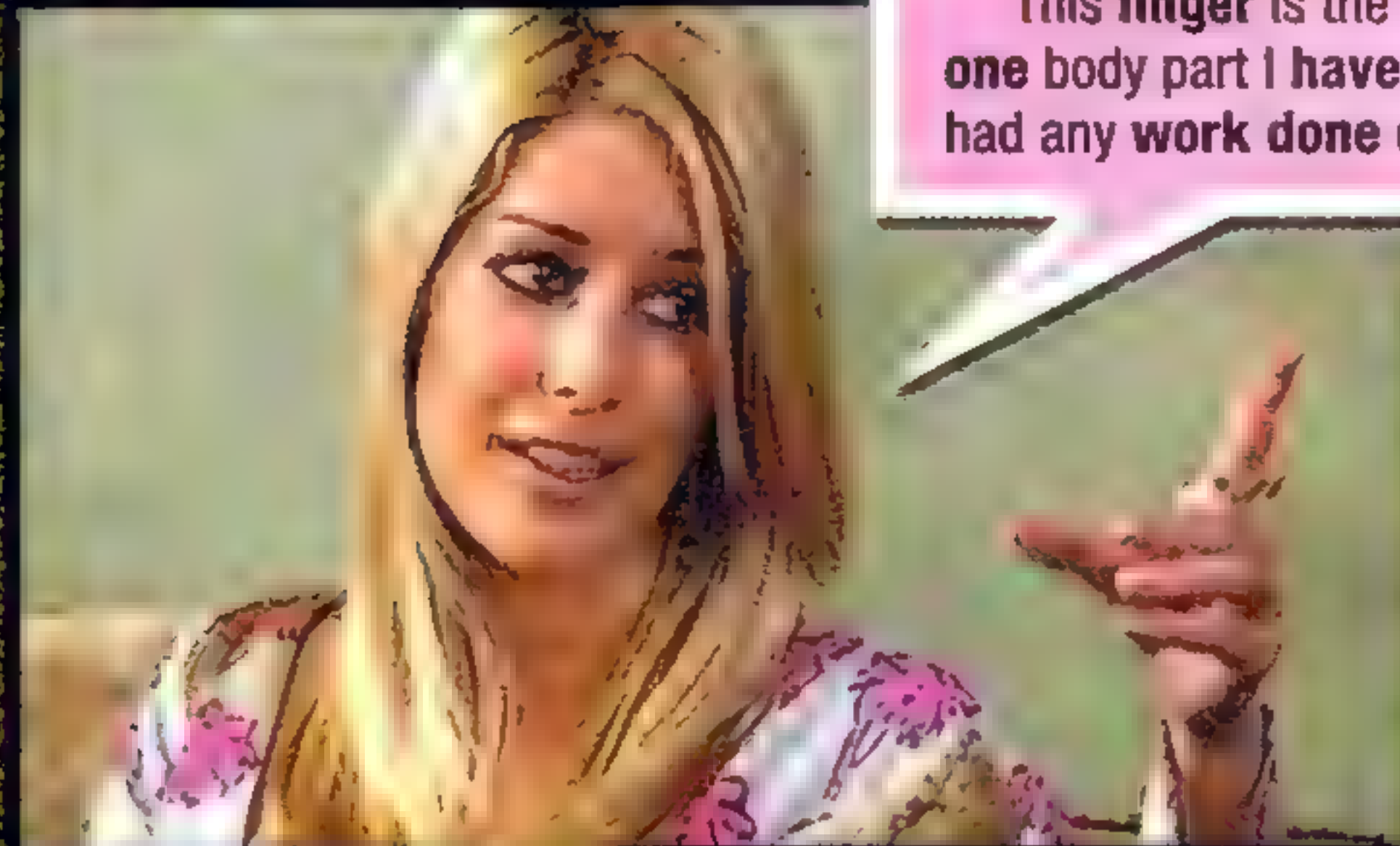
I don't know if I want
this apartment. With these giant windows,
I'd just feel like I had no privacy.



Do ya like
the ring?
I won it in the
World Series of
Douchebags.



This finger is the
one body part I haven't
had any work done on.



I always like to see
how my makeup looks in
the light before I put it on!



I know, isn't this scarf great? Rachael Ray gave
it to me at the last Hezbollah meeting.



THE HILLS

Outtakes

Yep —
right there —
that's where I'll
stick the knife.



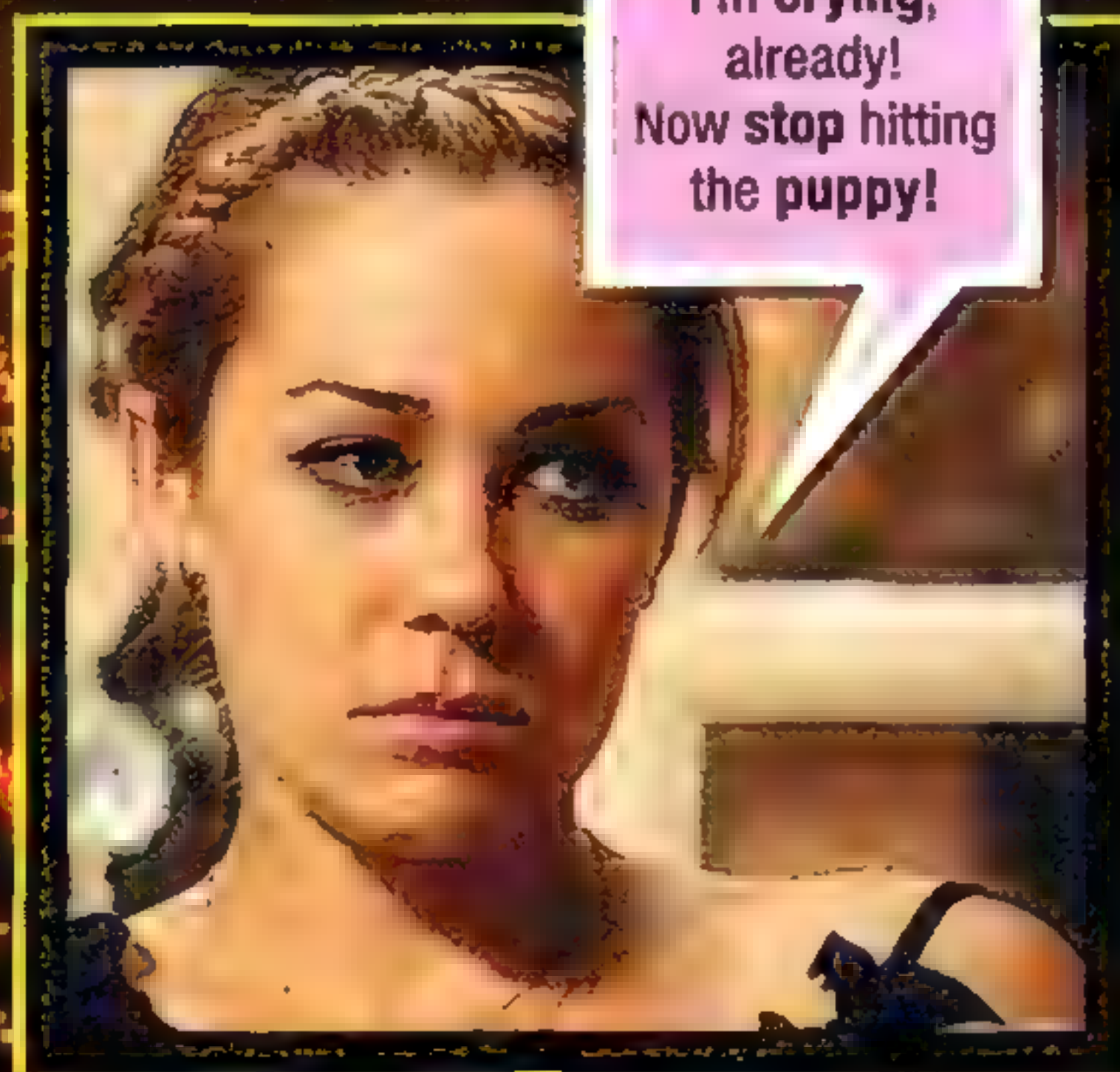
I can't believe
the producers made
"Lauren Eats
a Grapefruit"
into
a three-episode arc!



Help! Spencer went into the store
and didn't even crack the window!
I'm going to suffocate!



I'm crying,
already!
Now stop hitting
the puppy!

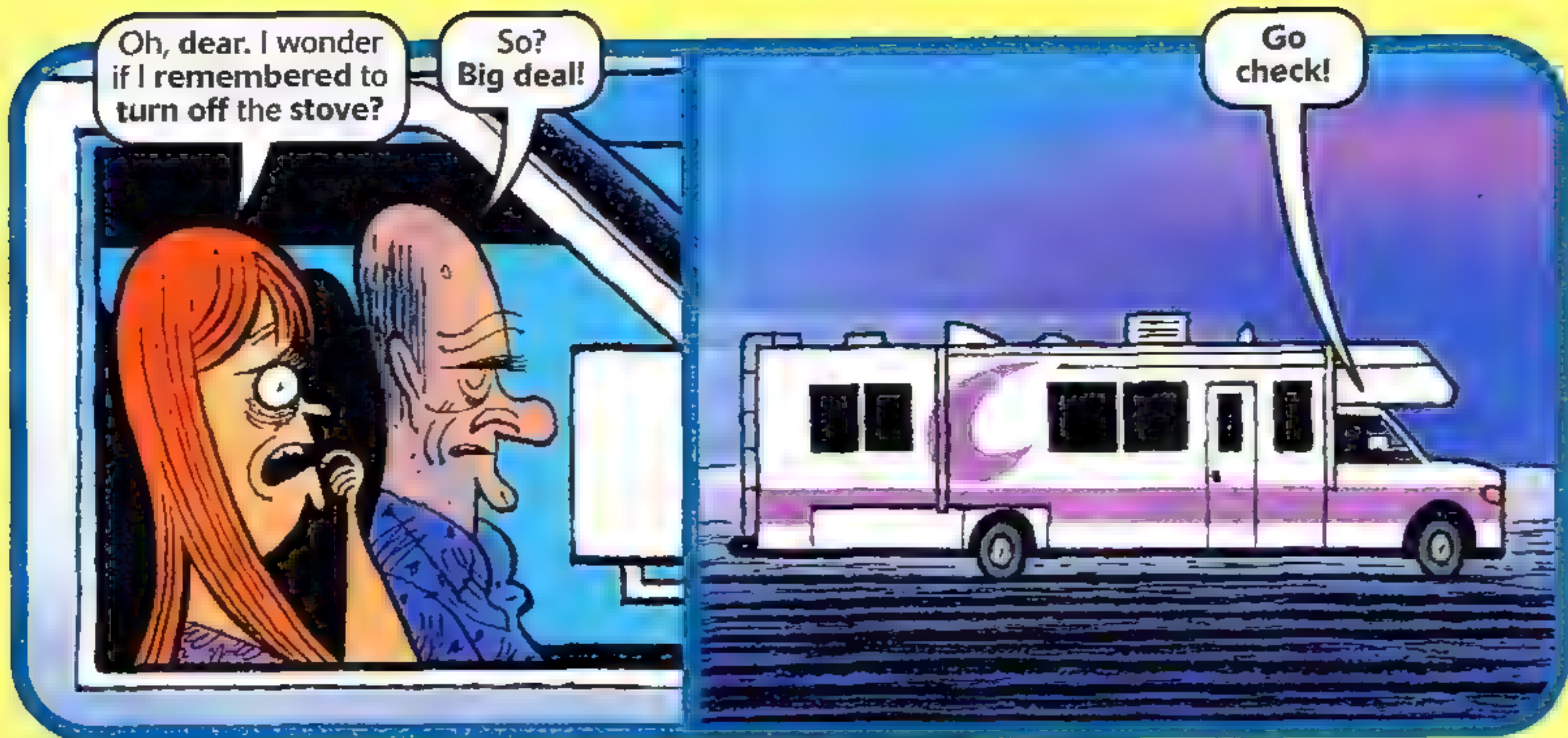


It feels so good to
take my makeup off
and just relax.



Yep, another coupla years
and I bet I'll be spending
a LOT of time on a pole.





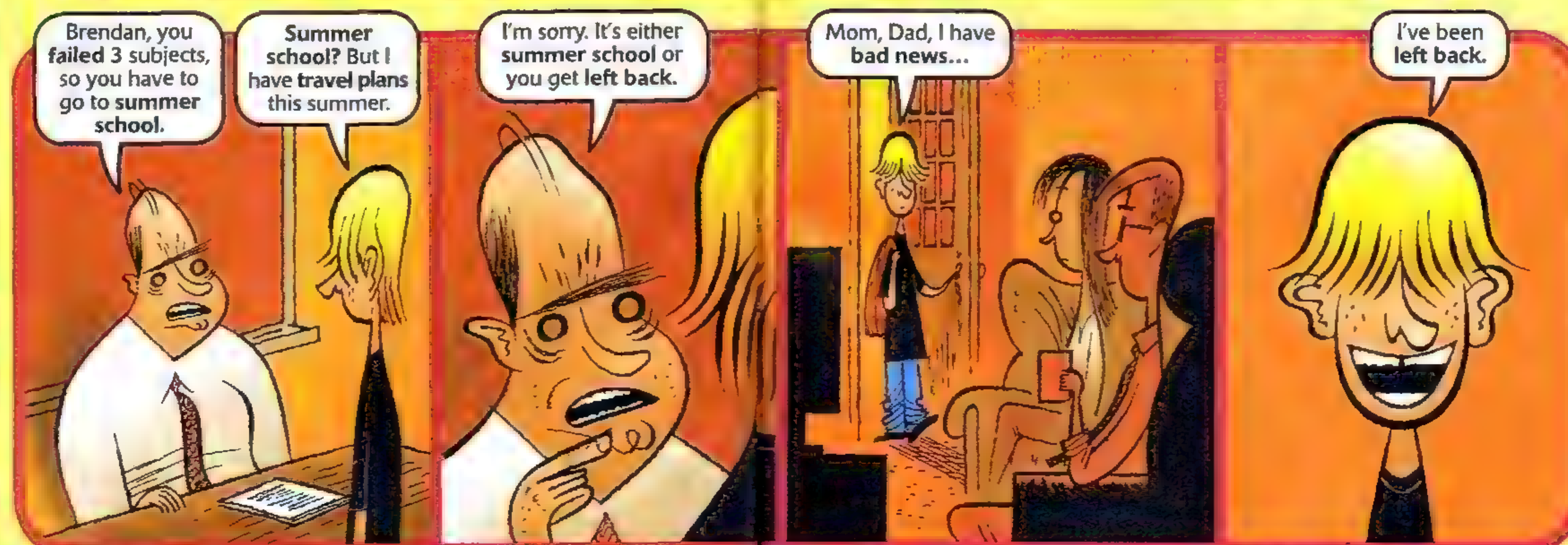
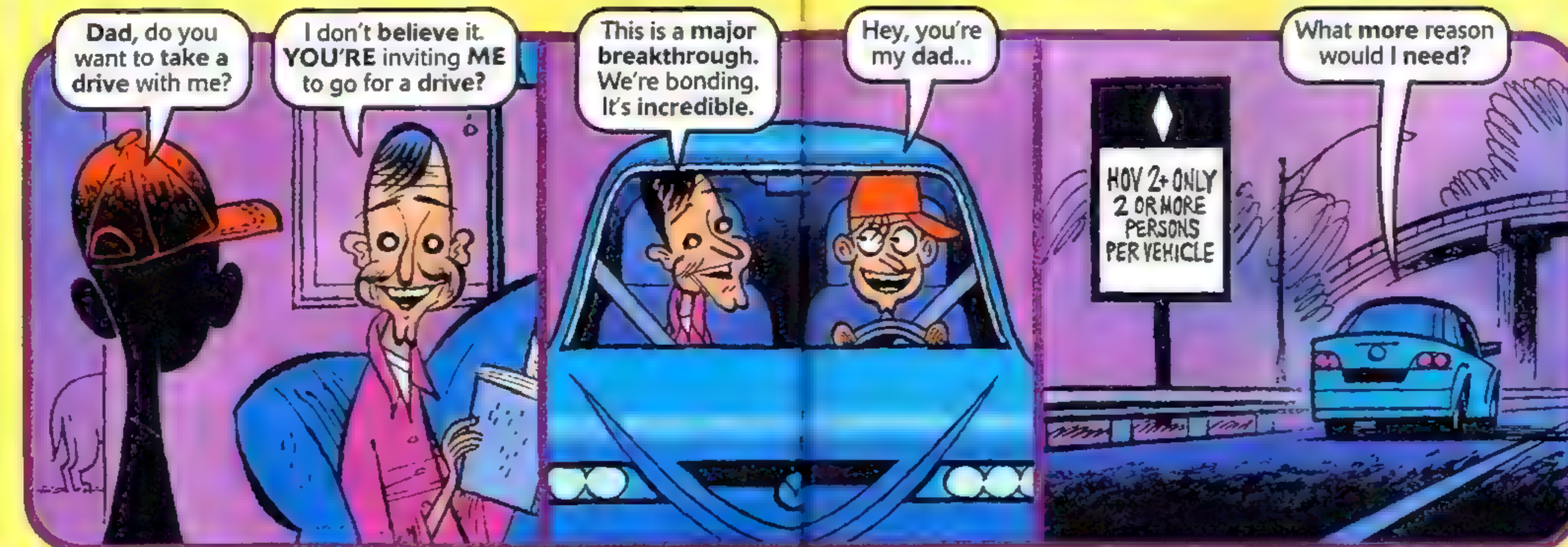
TRIP TEASE DEPT.

TheMAD WORLDof...

TRAVEL

WRITER: STAN SINBERG

ARTIST: MARC HEMPEL





RUNNING THE NATION?
THIS GUY SHOULDN'T EVEN BE DRIVING!



JOHN MCCAIN

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MAN

A FRIGHTENING SEQUEL TO THE BUSH PRESIDENCY

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESENTS A POST TRAUMATIC STRESS PRODUCTION "NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MAN"
STARRING JOHN MCCAIN AS THE SENILE CANDIDATE, CYNDI MCCAIN AS "MS. MONEYBAGS" AND MITT ROMNEY AS "THE ROBOT WHO WANTS TO BE VICE-PRESIDENT"
BASED ON KARI ROVE'S "CAMPAIGN PLAYBOOK OF FEAR, LIES AND SMEAR TACTICS" DIRECTED BY NO ONE REALLY, WHICH IS WHY IT'S SUCH A MESS

Rated-AARP
NO ONE UNDER 72 ADMITTED

A
MAD
MEMORABLE
POSTER

MAD KIDS™

AWESOME CELEBRITY INTERVIEWS!

MAD KIDS: Who makes you laugh?

JACK BLACK: Oh boy. What makes me laugh really, really, really, really hard? That Ali G. sure makes me laugh. The guy's a genius. And I really like that Ricky Gervais from the original *The Office*. That dude's insane.

MAD KIDS: What does the "D" in Tenacious D stand for?

JACK BLACK: I can't really tell you the origin of the name Tenacious D because it's revealed in our new movie, *Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny*, and I don't want to give away too much.

GOOFY GAGS!

So Much for this so-called ZOMBIE Repellent!



COMIC STRIPS!



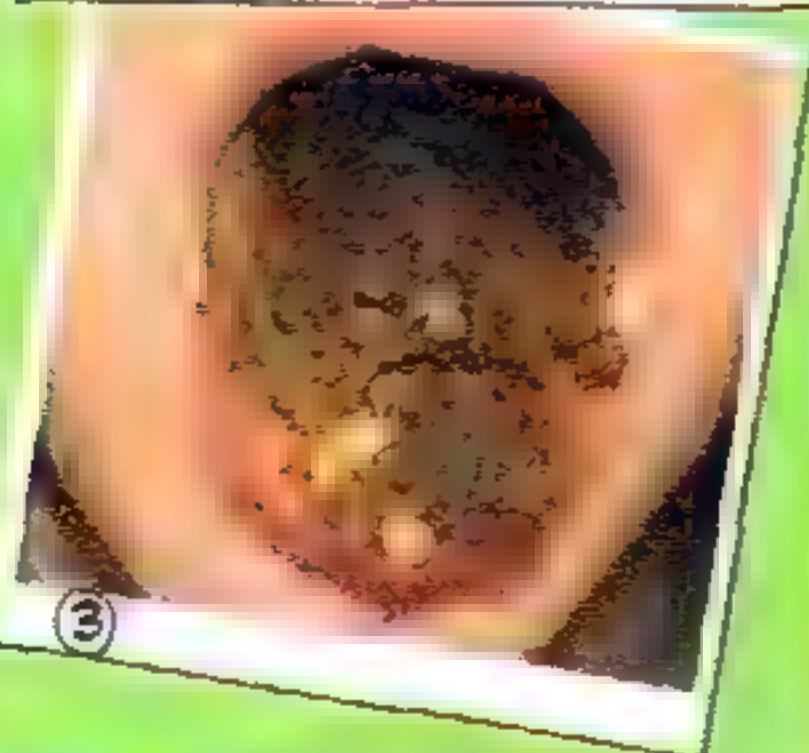
GAMES & PUZZLES!

SEE FOOD!

THE MAD KIDS CHEWED FOOD GROSSOUT GAME

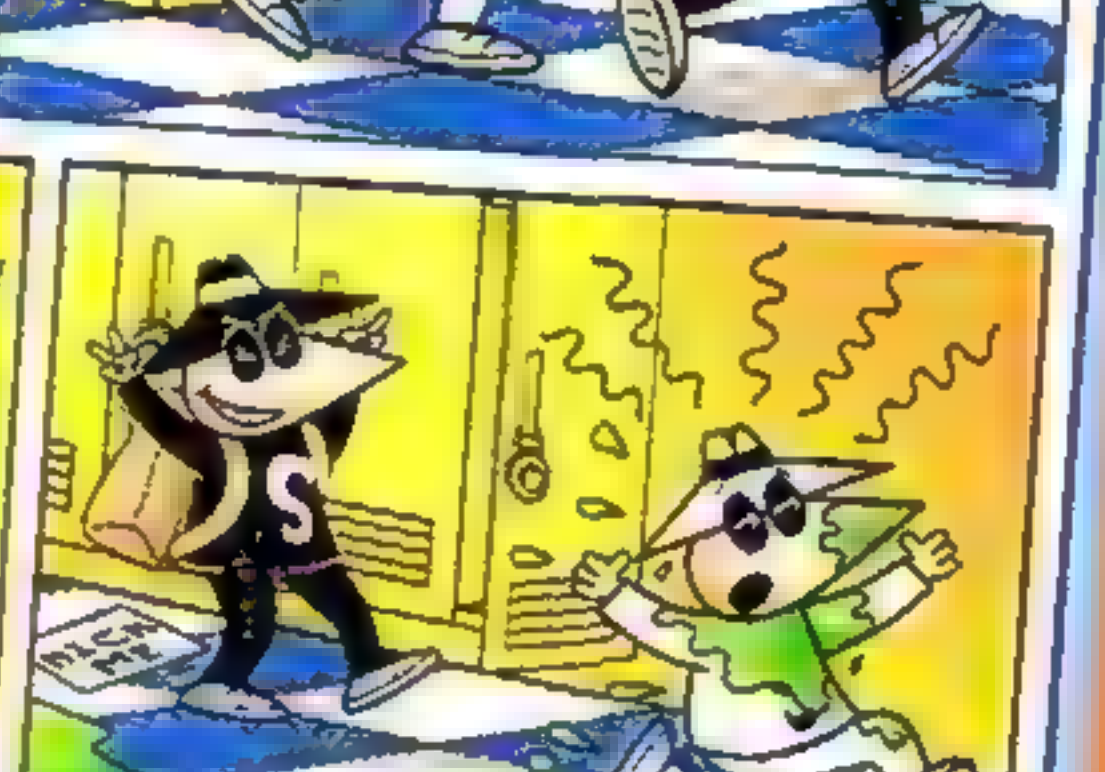
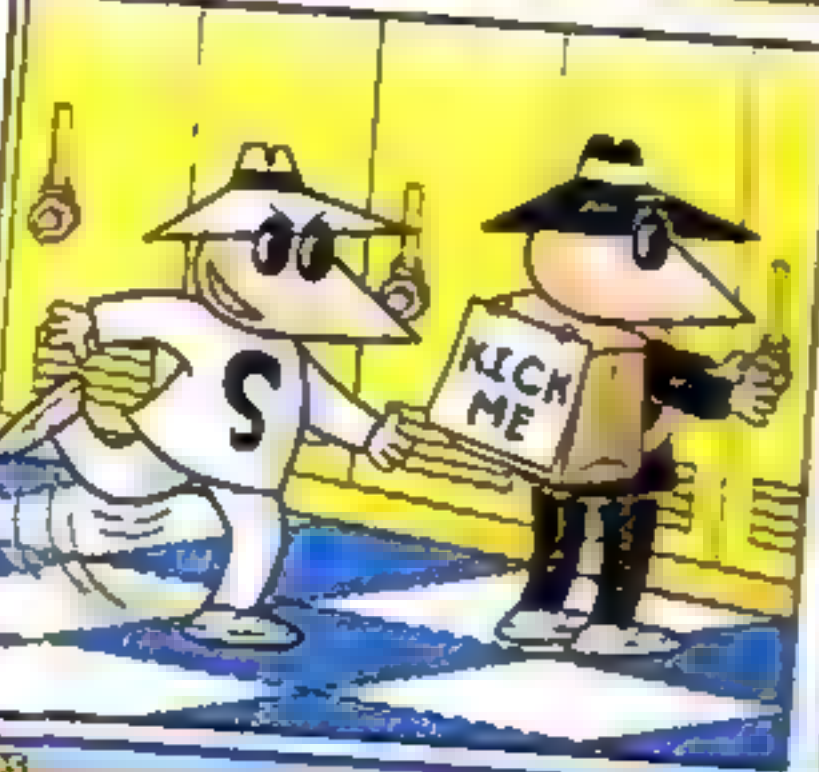
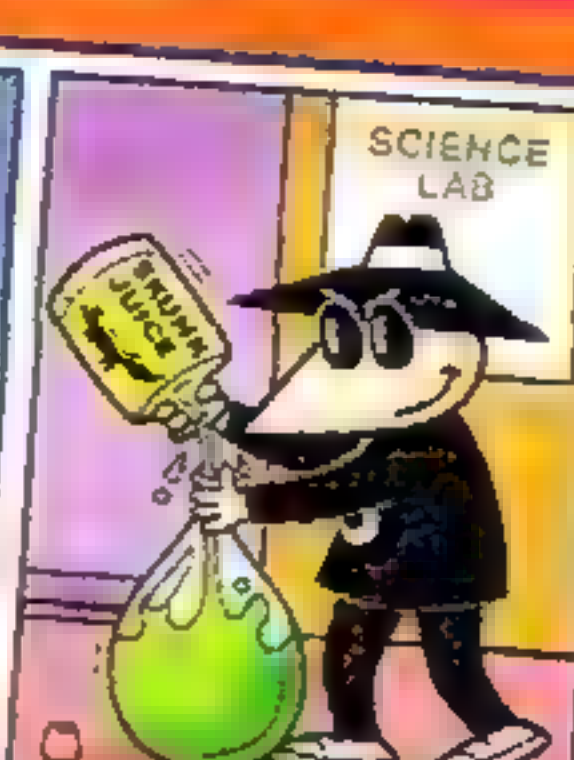
Ever notice how the more you chew foods, the more they start to look alike? Here are four icky pictures – see if you can identify the correct food from the list – without barfing!

NACHOS WITH CHEESE AND SALSA
CHOCOLATE BROWNIE
S'MORES
CHICKEN NUGGETS

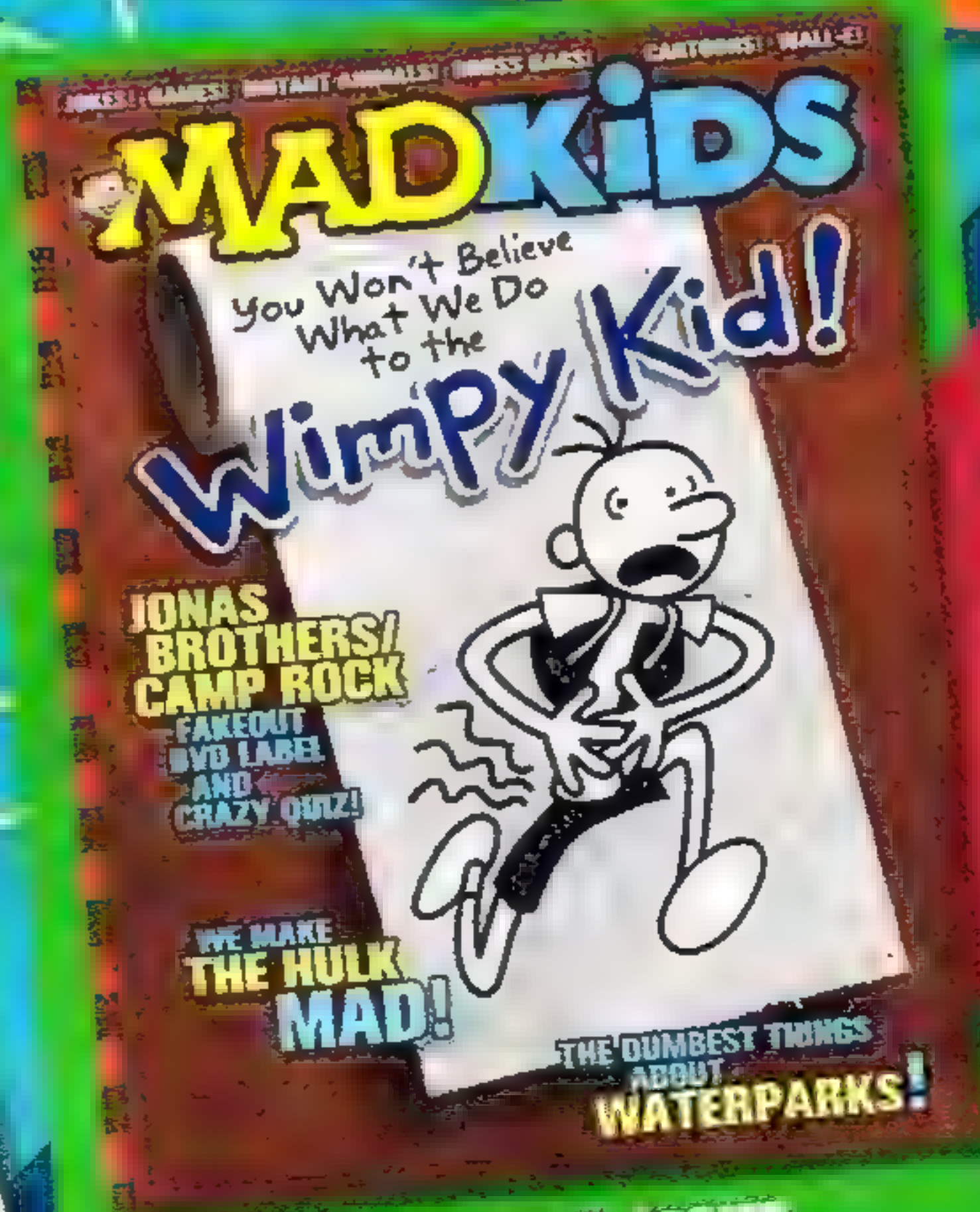
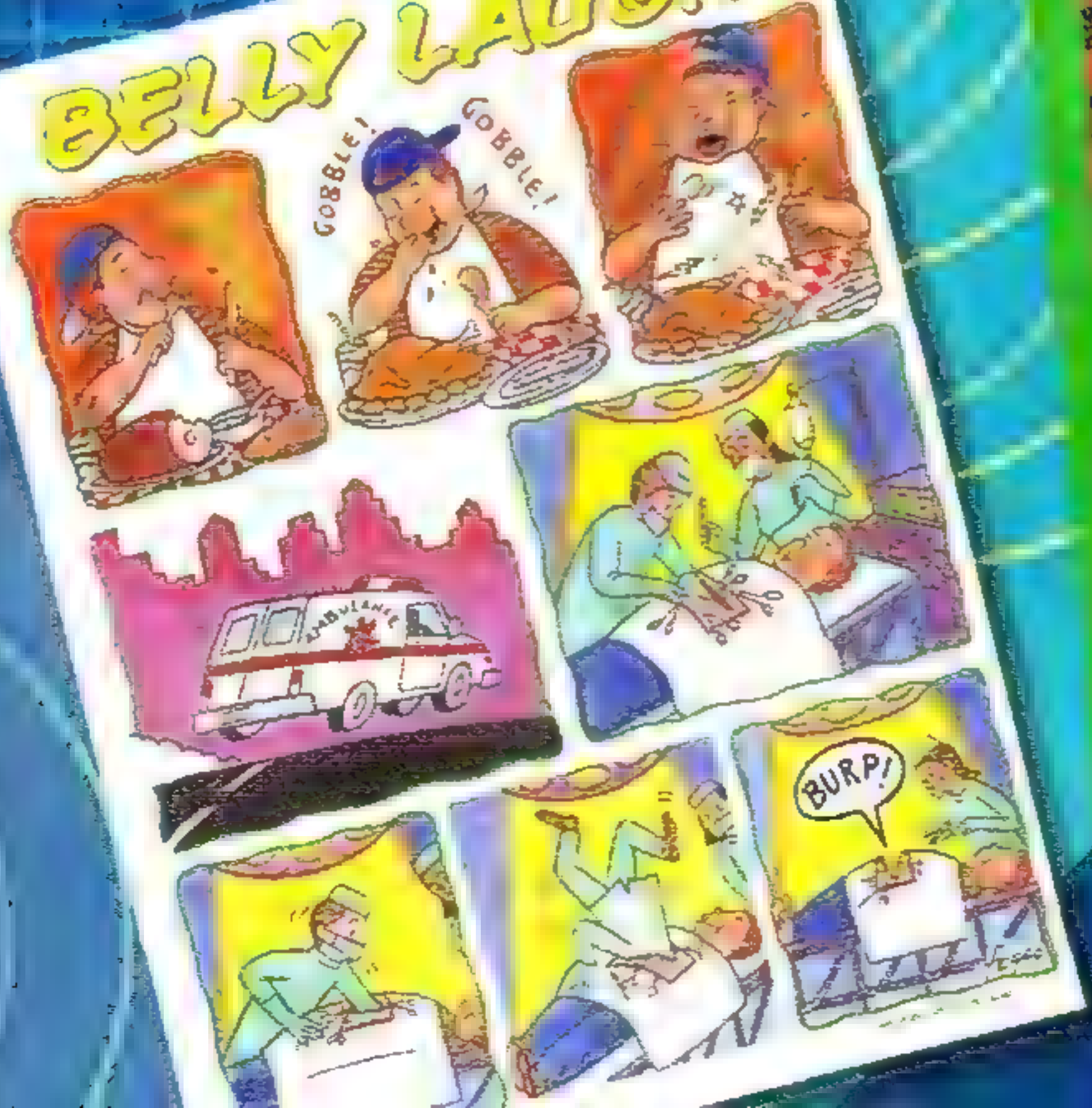


PUZZLE ANSWER: 1) Nachos with cheese and salsa 2) S'mores 3) Chocolate Brownie 4) Chicken Nuggets

SPY VS. SPY JR.!



BELLY LAUGH!



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If we're to believe the hype, this movie is more than a mere movie. It's a Christian allegory with strong messages about sacrifice and forgiveness! And we hate to say it, but they're right! You sacrifice ten hard-earned bucks to see it, and there is no forgiveness offered from the producers for wasting two and half hours of your time! Come on, this is basically a re-tread of the first *Yawnia* movie! If you don't believe it, you'll have to forgive us as we sacrifice the next four pages pointing out all the absurdities in...

THE CHRONIC-ILLS OF YAWNIA PRINCE THESPIAN

I'm Loosely, the youngest of four siblings! A few years ago while visiting a kindly professor's castle, I entered a wardrobe and came out in a magical land called Yawnia! Either that, or the professor was putting drugs in our cocoa! All kinds of strange things happened in that land. For instance, even though I'm young and inexperienced, I ended up defeating a mean and evil witch hellbent on controlling the kingdom — I know, it sounds a lot like the story of Barack and Hillary to me, too! Let my brother Deadmund tell you more!

About 30 minutes ago, the four of us had just gotten out of school in London! We were waiting for a train in the underground when suddenly we found ourselves zoomed back here to Yawnia! Just our luck — we get on the one enchanted British rail car that DOESN'T go to Hogwarts! Snoozen, continue the story!

Back here in Yawnia we found this crumbling old temple! We looked in these old crypts and guess what we discovered? Our royal clothing! Our royal swords! Our royal crowns! Either that or we stumbled upon the magical *tchotchkes gift shop* — these historic sites ALWAYS have a gift shop! One thing still puzzles me. When we were kings and queens here, this temple was in perfect shape! What could have happened? Peeper?

I know exactly what happened! Along with my royal bill for temple upkeep! And it's 1,300 years past due! That means our Yawnia credit rating has been in the toilet for over 1,000 years!

I am Prince Thespiant! I have been forced to flee Yawnia by my evil, power-hungry uncle MyAss, who killed my father and now wants to give the kingdom to his newborn son! I say, if he spoils the kid like that now, what's he going to do for his sweet 16? Geesh!



I'm Pumpkin, a courageous Dwarf! I welcome a war that will return Yawnia to its former goofiness! Even though I'm a dwarf, I can defeat a full-sized man — assuming, of course, I'm standing on another dwarf's shoulders and I have my sword and mace, and my opponent only has a spork!

Since the royal children have been gone, Yawnia has become a dark and scary place! The trees no longer dance! The flowers no longer sing! And the snakes no longer play banjos! Although I'm going to miss that one least of all — I've always just hated the banjo!

I'm Triflehunter, the badger! Recently I came to a crossroads in my life! I had to make a decision! Either leave my peaceful woodland home and become a warrior, or be turned into a shaving brush! So, it's the army life for me!

I'm Redo-Cheep and I'm here to show everyone that a warrior mouse can be just as cute and endearing as a cooking rat! Got that, Remy? My armor and weapons are miniscule, yet they still cost the Yawnia defense department millions — damn those military contractors!

I am King MyAss! My nephew, Prince Thespiant, wants me to make him King but I have other plans for him! I'm going to have him murdered! The last thing I want to be accused of is nepotism! Besides, I plan to make my son King! That makes sense, doesn't it? Logic was never our family's strong suit!

Your Royal High-hand-edness, I do see one problem! When the epic battles begin and there are thousands of warriors on the battlefield, how can we tell our own men from the enemy?

Easy! If they have a vague Spanish or Italian accent, they are one of us! If they have a British accent, they are the enemy! Also, kill anything with fur!

King MyAss is amassing thousands to fight us! And they're using giant logs to build weapons of minor destruction! What's our plan?

Assault them on all fronts for an out and out massacre!

We're outnumbered 100 to 1! A massacre?

Yes, we'll get massacred, but those jerks will be stuck with the cleanup! But, and this is the big plus — sympathy will be on our side! Well, those of us who live, that is!

Is it just me, or does something about this plan stink?

This surprise midnight attack will catch King MyAss and his troops off guard!

Midnight attack? Peeper, it's twelve noon!

That's the surprise part! Besides, we have no choice! We're kids! We have to be in bed by 9:30!

Retreat!! Retreat!!

How can we retreat? We haven't entered a battle yet!

Don't you read intros? We're doing this spoof in four pages! We're leaving out most of the endless battle scenes!

I bet the people who saw the movie wish the producers would have left out most of the endless battle scenes!

I've called on our friends, the gryphons, to help!

To carry our men into battle on their backs?

Yes, but also to bomb our adversaries! Can you imagine the size of those birds' droppings?!

My guess is that men holding on to those eagles for dear life are so frightened they'll be letting fly some huge droppings of their own!

I can't believe how powerful these people are! They'll stop at nothing!

Yes, the Tele-Machines are a fierce enemy!

I'm not talking about them, I'm talking about the people from PETA! They're all over us!

The enemy has so many men and so many weapons!

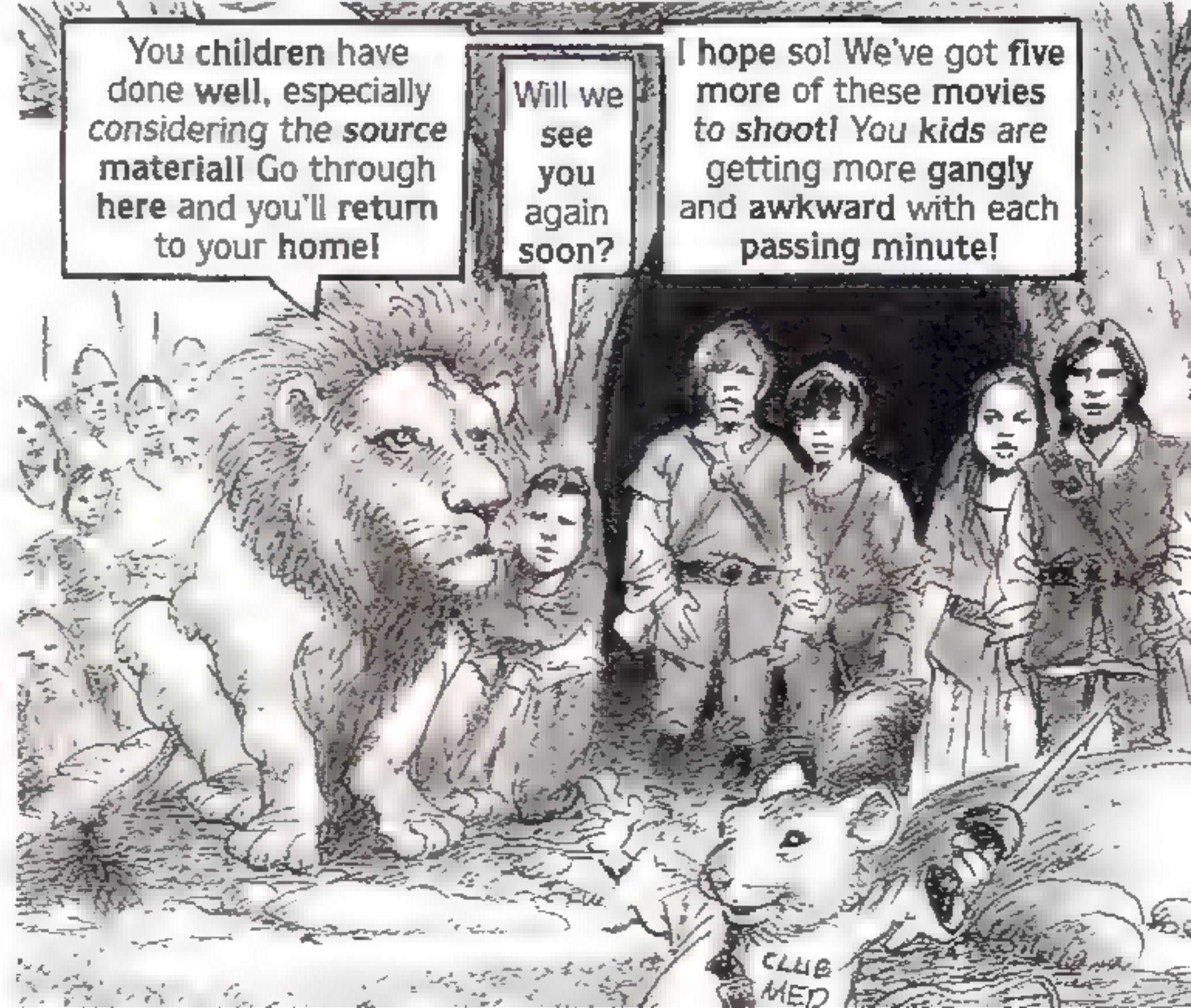
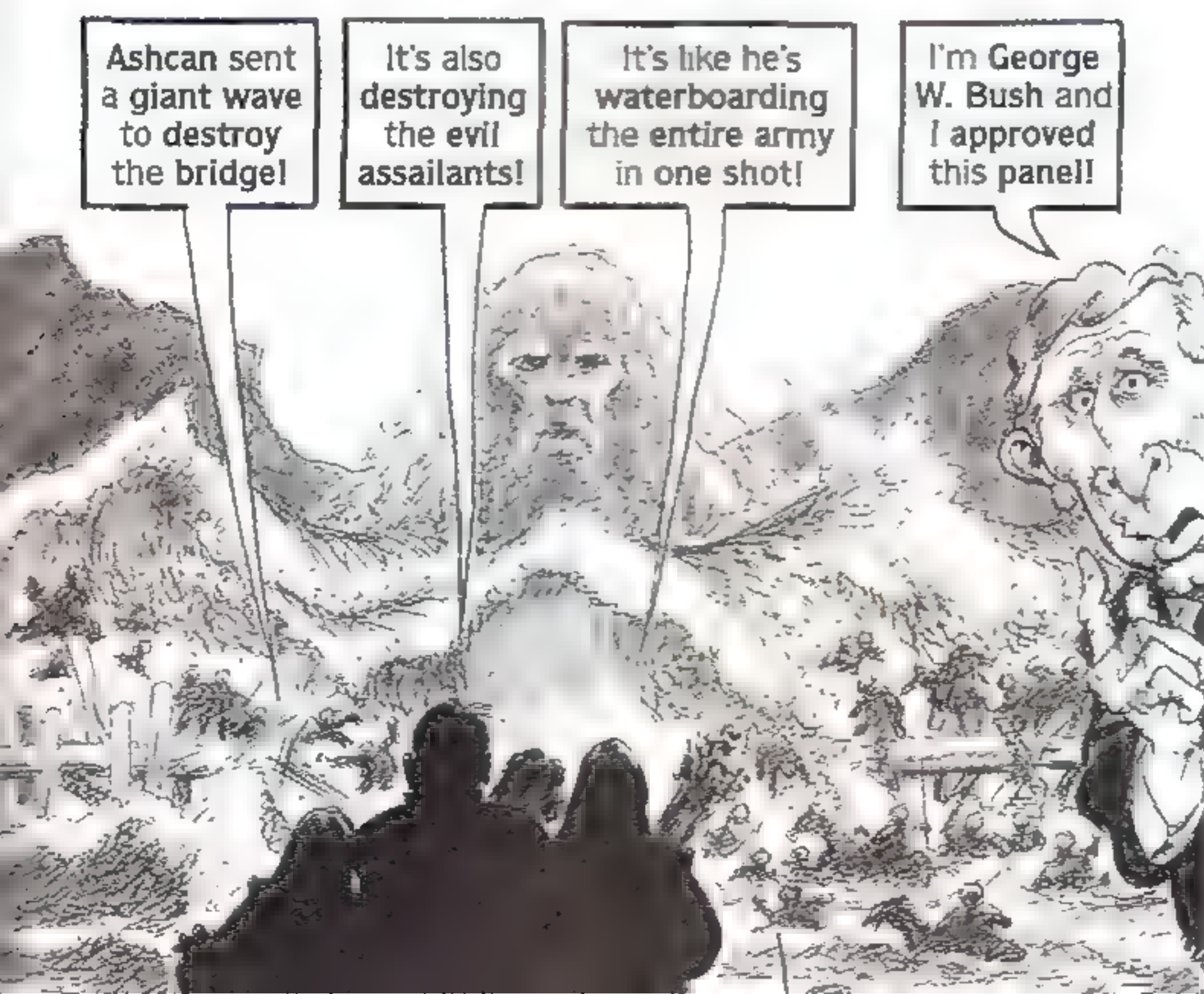
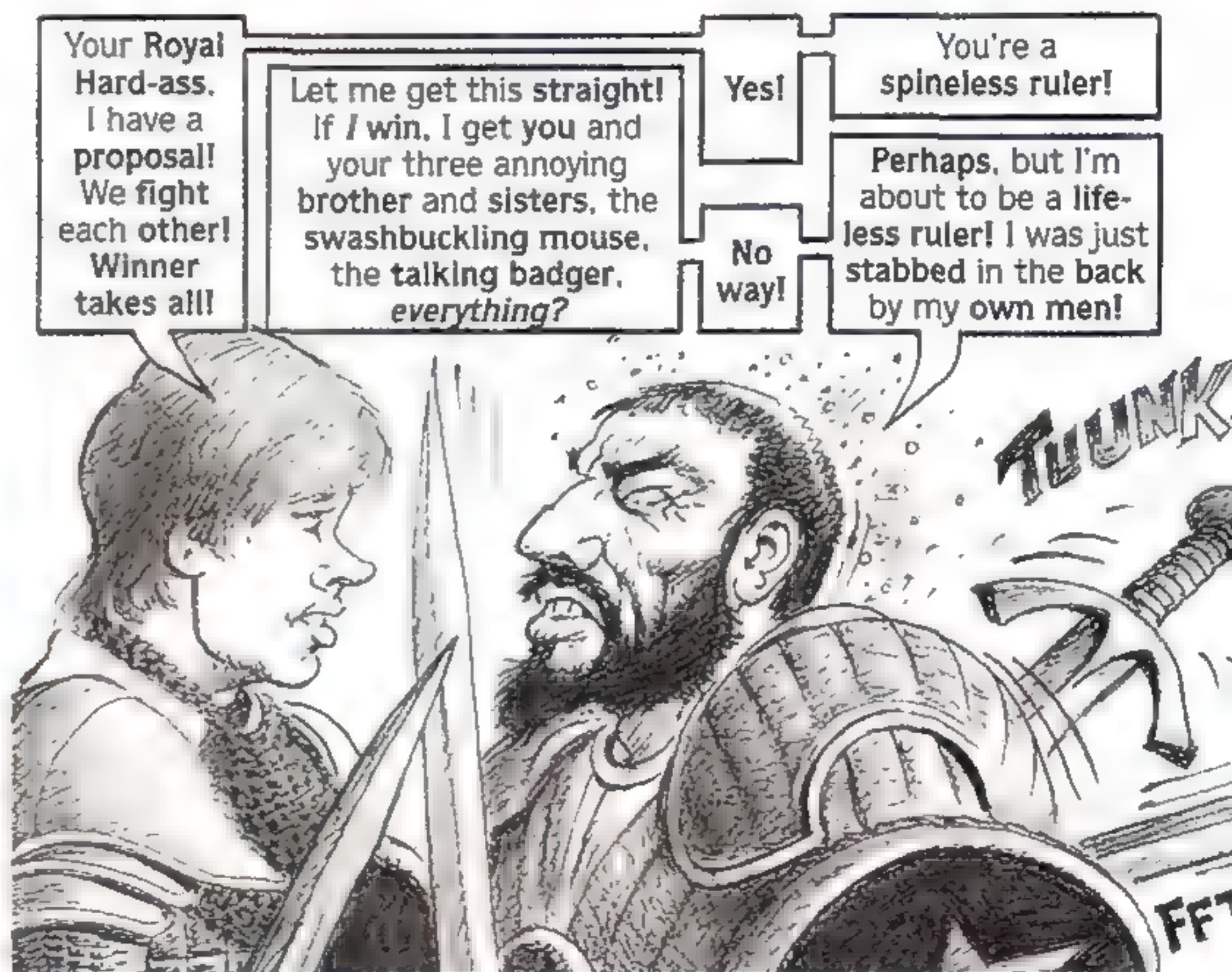
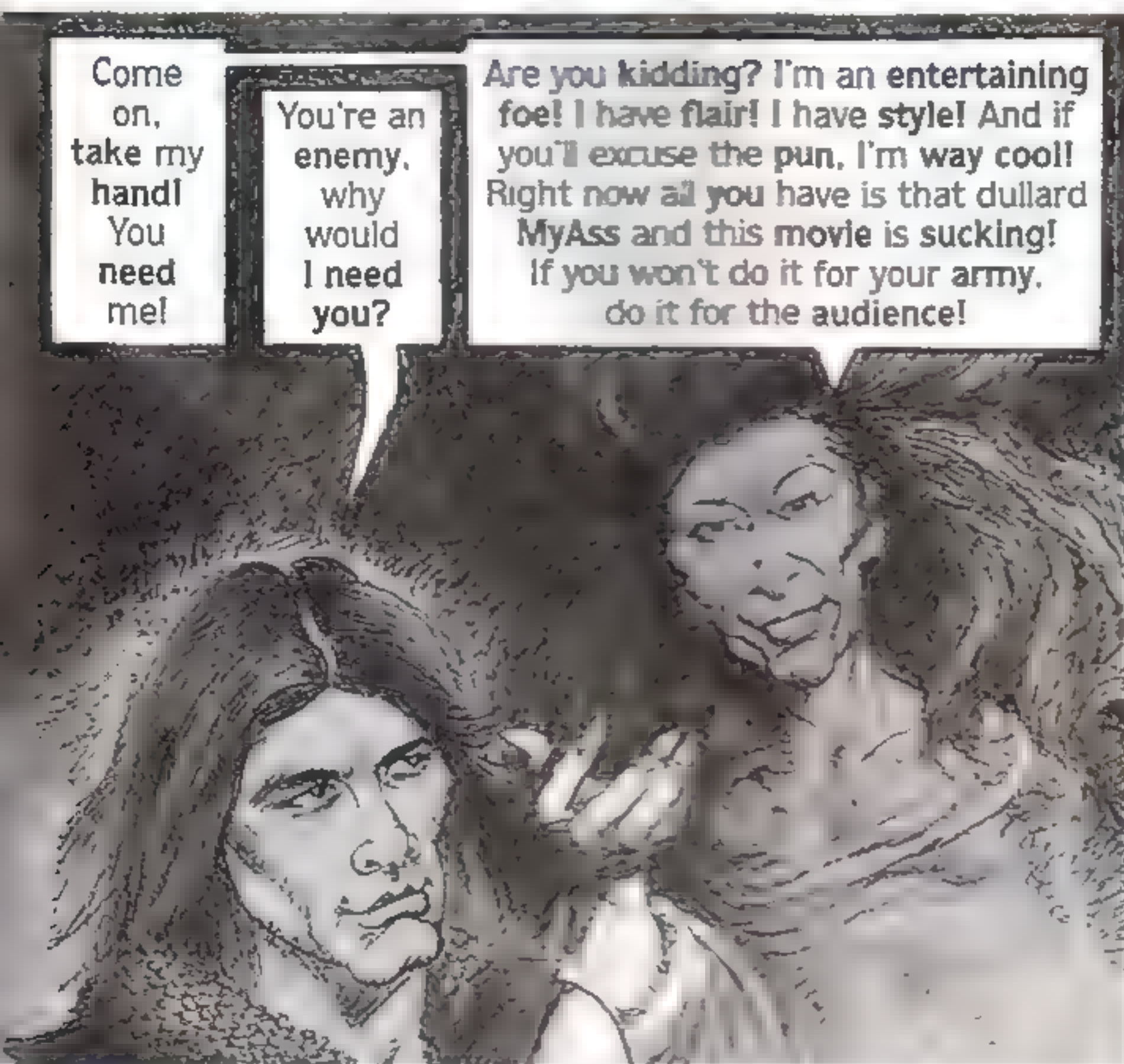
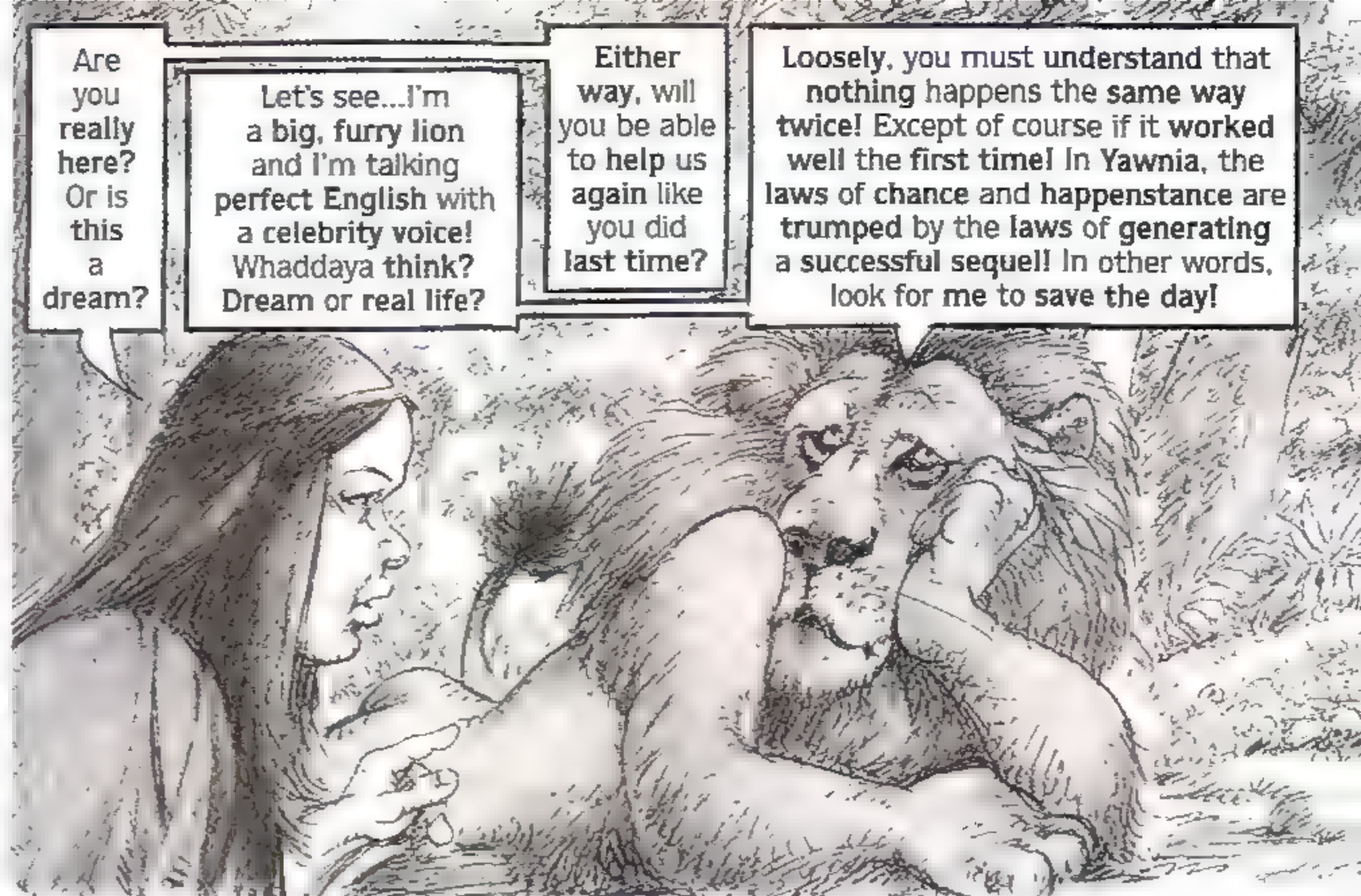
I'm not worried! Deadmund has the ultimate weapon — a flashlight!

So I'm going into battle led by a bunch of kids and animals, with a flashlight as our secret weapon?

When the enemy sees how ill-equipped we are, their jaws will drop! That's our cue to attack!

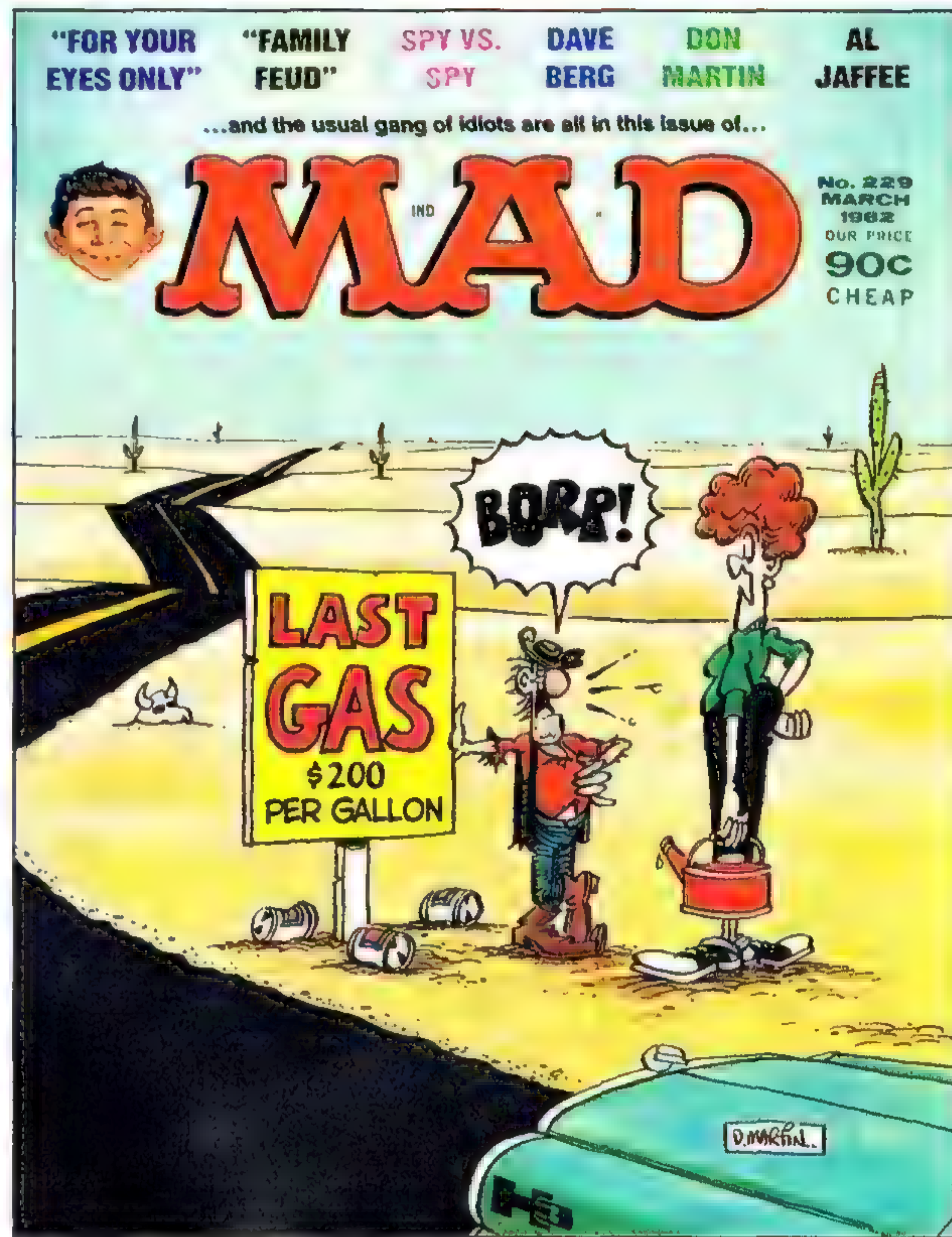
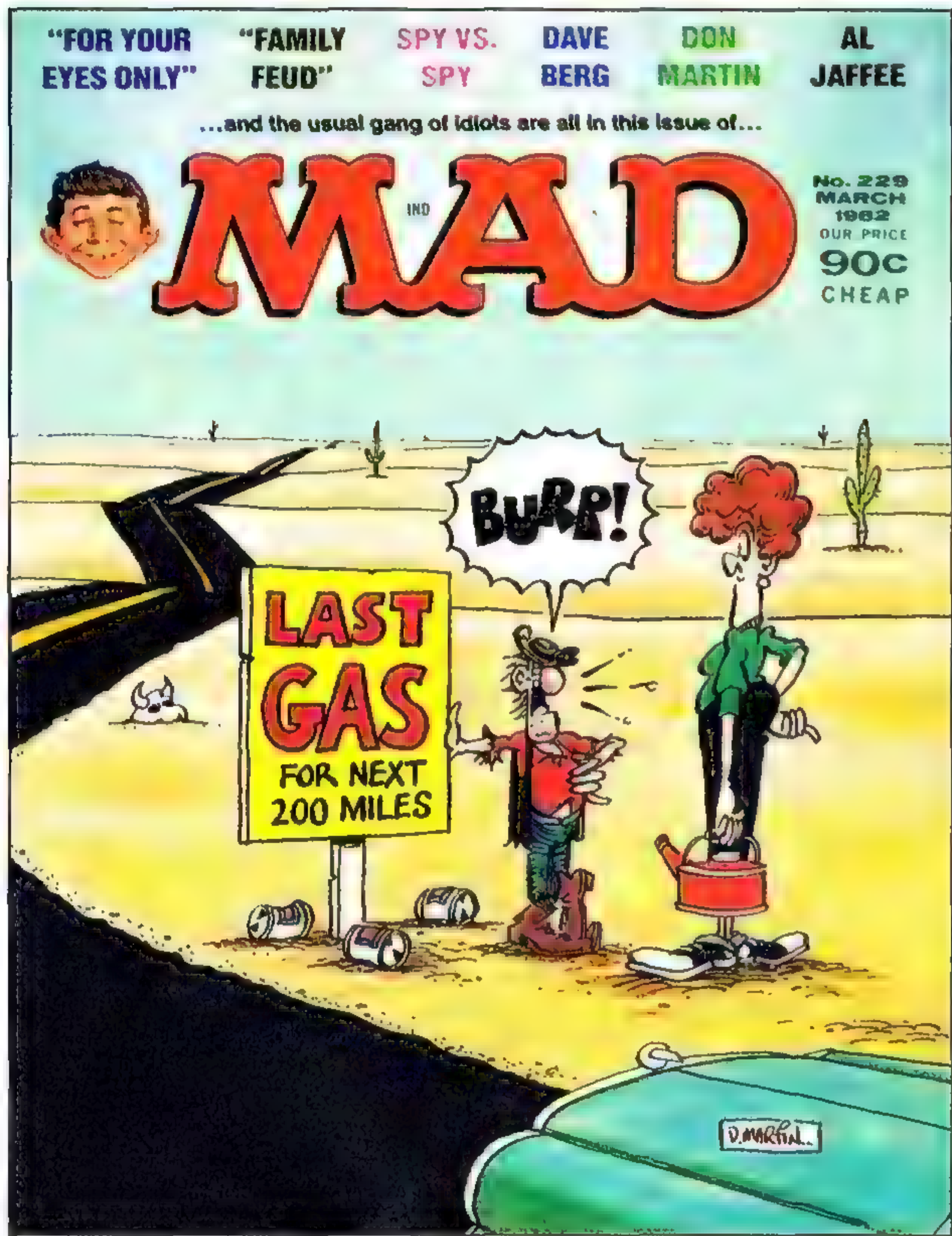
You really think a flashlight is going to help us win this battle?

Screw the battle! I'm using the flashlight to find a portal back home and get us out of this mess!



WHAT THE HECK IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Can you find the 9 idiotic changes we've made to this magazine cover?



ANSWERS: (1) There's an extra cactus on the left side. (2) The man is now saying "BORP." (3) The cactus on the far right is larger. (4) The woman's mouth is now open. (5) The sign for gas has changed. (6) There's a drip from the gas can. (7) The woman's pinkie is gone. (8) The hood ornament is different. (9) The car now has a Hummer logo on it.



WHAT HORRIFIC
DISASTER IS LEAVING
MANY EXPERTS
FEELING BEWILDERED
AND HELPLESS?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS **MAD FOLD-IN**

Every day there are catastrophic events that people are at a loss to explain. No matter what they do, these calamities are proving to be unstoppable. There is one disaster, however, that is leaving the public completely baffled and seems to grow more severe with each passing minute. To find out what it is, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!



FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT



FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



AMERICANS TREAT DISASTERS AS IF SOME ENEMY
WITH EVIL INTENT HAS ATTACKED. THIS SCENE-
RY SHOCKS ALL ONLOOKERS. THUS, HOUR BY
HOUR, THIS HORROR JUST GETS WORSE AND WORSE



WRITER AND ARTIST: AL JAFFEE



**WHAT HORRIFIC
DISASTER IS LEAVING
MANY EXPERTS
FEELING BEWILDERED
AND HELPLESS?**



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



**AMY
WINE-**

HOUSE

A B

DAMNATION

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YOUR SOUL?

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Mad Magazine #493

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